



ST. FAUSTINA Catholic Church

15551 N. Boggy Marsh Road, Clermont, FL 34714

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent / Merry Christmas

Jesus, I Trust in You

Mass Schedule / Horario de Misas

Daily Mass

Monday to Saturday at 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday @ 4:00 PM

Sunday @ 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

5:00 PM en Espanol

Wednesday Holy Hour

3:00—4:00 PM

First Friday Adoration

8:30 AM—8:00 PM

Confessions

Saturday 3:00—3:45 PM

or by appointment

**The Church is Open for Personal Prayer
Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**



PEACE



OUR SAVIOR IS BORN!

Parish Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM Friday, 9 AM to 1 PM

Parish Phone Number: 352-515-9297

Parish General E-Mail Address: office@stfaustina.org

Pastor	Father Carlos J. Cabán Vázquez	Ext. 101	ccaban@stfaustina.org
Actively Retired	Father John McNalis		
Deacon	Cris Stout		cstout@stfaustina.org
Operations Manager	Joe Seddio	Ext. 104	jseddio@stfaustina.org
Director of Music & Liturgy	Kelly Mucci	Ext. 102	kmucci@stfaustina.org
Director of Faith Formation	Marylu Mariniello	Ext. 103	mmariniello@stfaustina.org
Administrative Asst./PDS Coord.	Donna Cuttita	Ext. 100	dcuttita@stfaustina.org
Receptionist	Carmen Pagan	Ext. 106	cpagan@stfaustina.org
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Duane Hyland	Ext. 107	dhyland@stfaustina.org

Website: www.stfaustina.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/St.FaustinaCatholicChurch

A Message from Father Carlos - Un Mensaje de Padre Carlos

Dear St. Faustina Family,

On the path of Advent, we have come to the last Sunday—which this year is very particular: today, in the evening, we will be celebrating Christmas Night. In God's plan of salvation, the announcement of the Messiah's promises culminates in the Annunciation of the Angel, which we hear in this weekend's Gospel. Jesus, the long-awaited one who frees men from the slavery that stalks them, would be born of Mary. This is the most important proclamation in the history of salvation, addressed to a young Virgin of the lineage of David, in fulfillment of the promise heard in the First Reading.

Today we accompany Mary in preparing Jesus for a welcome in the midst of our lives. We recognize and extol the faith of Mary, the one who was chosen to be the Mother of the Savior. Although she did not understand everything that was happening in her life, she always prepared herself to live according to God's plans, she trusted and said Yes: **"I am the handmaid of the Lord; Let what you have told me be fulfilled in me"** Mary's strong and resounding YES, her dedication and humility, makes her our strongest model of following Christ.



Brothers and sisters, today we insist on the preparation to be able to celebrate these feasts with a true Christian sense, open to God, who makes himself present in our midst. Today is Christmas Eve and tomorrow is Christmas. Let's remember, Mary was the one who lived Advent and Christmas best, let's learn from her. Animo!

St. Faustina... Pray for us.

In Christ,

Father Carlos

* * * * *

Mi querida comunidad parroquial de San Faustina,

En el camino del ADVIENTO, hemos llegado al último domingo—que este año es muy particular hoy mismo, en la noche, estaremos celebrando la Noche de Navidad. En el Plan de Salvación trasado por Dios, el anuncio de las promesas del Mesías culmina en la Anunciación del Ángel, que escuchamos en el Evangelio de este fin de semana. Jesús, el esperado que libera a los hombres de las esclavitudes que le acechan, nacería de María. Este es el anuncio más importante en la historia de la salvación, dirigido a una joven Virgen de la estirpe de David, en cumplimiento de la promesa escuchada en la primera lectura.

Hoy acompañamos a María a preparar a Jesús una acogida en medio de nuestras vidas. Reconocemos y ensalzamos la fe de María, aquella que fue escogida para ser Madre del Salvador. Ella, aunque no comprendía todo lo que estaba pasando en su vida, se dispuso siempre a vivir según los proyectos de Dios, confió y dijo que Si: **"Yo soy la esclava del Señor; cúmplase en mí lo que me has dicho"** El SI fuerte y rotundo de María, su entrega y humildad, la convierte en nuestro modelo más fuerte de seguimiento de Cristo.

Hermanos y hermanas, hoy se nos insiste en la preparación para poder celebrar estas fiestas con verdadero sentido Cristiano, abiertos a Dios, que se hace presente es medio de nosotros. Ya hoy es Noche Buena y mañana es Navidad. Recordemos, María fue la que mejor vivió el Adviento y la Navidad, aprendamos de ella. ¡Ánimo!

San Faustina... Ruega por nosotros.

En Cristo,

Padre Carlos

Financial Stewardship

Weekly Collection Weekend of December 10, 2023

Offertory / Ofertorio: \$15,161.00 Mortgage Debt Reduction / Reducción de la deuda hipotecaria: \$4,957.00

Mass Attendance for the Weekend of December 10, 2023: 1,562

Going out of town to start the New Year?

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 23, 2023

- 4:00 pm + Thomas Moseley
Requested by: Marilyn Moseley
- 6:00 pm + Angelina Lopez
Requested by: Fr. Ramon Bolatete

Sunday, December 24, 2023

- 8:00 am Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Faustina
- 10:00 am Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Faustina
- 4:00 pm Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Faustina
- 10:00 pm Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Faustina

Monday, December 25, 2023

- 8:00 am Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Faustina
- 9:30 am Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Faustina
- 11:00 am Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Faustina

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

- 8:00 am SI Juan & Oliva San Nicolas
Requested by: Matthew & Tina Bright

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

- 8:00 am + John Heffner
Requested by: Heffner Family

Thursday, December 28, 2023

- 8:00 am + Eliodoro Sousa
Requested by: Ines Sousa

Friday, December 29, 2023

- 8:00 am + Josephine Gutowski
Requested by: Mike Smeraglia

Saturday, December 30, 2023

- 8:00 am + Maria & + Fernando Mora
Requested by: Mora Family
- 4:00 pm + Marie M. Clifford
Requested by: Connie Stoops

Sunday, December 31, 2023

- 7:30 am Parishioners of St. Faustina
- 9:30 am + Stephen Zibby
Requested by: Lois & Jim McGuire
- 11:30 pm Durocher & Cuttita Families
Requested by: Donna & George Cuttita
- 5:00 pm SI Roberto Aponte and Family
Requested by: Adrey Goez

Prayer Requests

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

In order to properly update our parish "Prayer Request" section of the bulletin, we are asking you to **resubmit names** that you would like on our list by emailing: office@stfaustina.org.



David Venditti, Helen Capozzi, John Magnotti, Kay Bucci, Becky Oosterveen, Trice Cayea, Jose De Pool, Magdalena Lezcano, Joseph Loughrey, Robert Kasper, Paul Overeem, Julie Sabon vanDyke, Ed David, Jack Marchewka, Michael Daniel Boglino, Christine Gallagher, Timothy Leonard, Deborah Hollis, Christina Gallagher, Mike McGee, Frank Sebastian, Larry Wilson, Joseph Foster, Carmine Gallo, Michael Kelly, Jim Exnicios, Elisa Walush, Elsa Gomez, Nancy Harrigan, Judith Croghan, Jean Conn, Carlos Corrales, Theresa Wentling, Paulette Sparlik, Frank Montagnino, Lilian Hawkinson, Tina Cyr, Patrick J. Cyr, Barb Nelson, Mark Thomas, David Bache, Zachary Birkholz, Jim Exnicios, Angela & Exevior Bojda, David Bartkus, Mary Ann Cunningham, Jeannie Burns, Linda Patrick, Michael Patrick, Anita Boyd, Julie Haley, Larry Brunke, Sr., Ron Henefer, Hadley Epps, Tina Audino, Daniel Cuttita, Patricia Dick, Lenise Shope, Marge Tagler, Mary Garl, Sue & Gene Plante, Donald & Trish Villeneuve



If you are a visitor to St. Faustina Catholic Church, we want you to know how welcome you are --- whether you have come from across the world, from another part of the country, or from another parish here in the state or city...WELCOME!

OUR MISSION — St. Faustina is a parish family inspired by the Holy Spirit and called to reflect God's Divine Mercy through a responsible stewardship of time, talent and treasure in the context of ministry.

NUESTRA MISION — Santa Faustina es una familia parroquial inspirada por el Espíritu Santo y llamada a reflejar la Divina Misericordia de Dios a través de una administración responsable del tiempo, el talento y el tesoro en el contexto de ministerio.

This Week's Schedule of Events

Daily Mass Monday thru Saturday at 8:00 am

A reminder that the church campus will be closed following the daily 8:00 am Mass from Tuesday, December 26th through Friday, December 29th. Please see the announcement on page 5 for further details.

Saturday, December 23 Fourth Week of Advent
No ministry events scheduled

Advent Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 23 — 4:00 pm (English) and 6:00 pm (Spanish)
Sunday, December 24 — 8:00 am and 10:00 am (both in English)

NOTE: Attendance at the Advent Mass does not fulfill the Christmas obligation.

Christmas Eve and Day

Sunday, December 24 — 4:00 pm (English)
10:00 pm (Bilingual) *This is a Candelight Mass*
Christmas Carols begin at 9:00 pm

Monday, December 25 — 8:00 am (English), 9:30 am (English), 11:00 am (Spanish)



“THANK YOU” to everyone who participated and purchased gifts from our Christmas Giving Tree in support of the children of the South Lake Pregnancy Center. Children from 80 families received gifts that were distributed by Santa Claus at the center’s December 20th Christmas Party. Your donations benefited children from newborn to 17 years of age.

Again, “THANK YOU” for your generosity, not only with this event, but for all you do for our parish.

Fourth Week of Advent Prayer

Father, all powerful God, your eternal Work took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* * * * *

Padre, Dios todopoderoso, tu Obra eterna se hizo carne en nuestra tierra cuando la Virgen María puso su vida al servicio de tu plan. Eleva nuestras mentes con esperanza vigilante para escuchar la voz que anuncia su gloria y abre nuestras mentes para recibir al Espíritu que nos prepara para su venida. Te lo pedimos por Cristo nuestro Señor. Amén.



During the week between Christmas and New Year, three important Feast Days will be celebrated at our Daily 8 am Masses.

On Tuesday, December 26, we celebrate and honor St. Stephen, who is considered to be the first martyr of the church.

St. John the Apostle’s Feast Day is Tuesday, December 27, and on Friday, December 29, we remember the Holy Innocents, which commemorates the execution of the innocent, male children in Bethlehem in an attempt to kill the infant Jesus as told in Matthew 2:16-18.

The Masses of December 30-31 celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family with our regular Mass schedule, and on Monday, January 1, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, with Masses at 8:00 am (in English) and at 10:00 am (in Spanish).



STREAM OUR ST. FAUSTINA MASSES...LIVE!!! If you are unable to attend Mass...weekday or weekend...our parish offers you the opportunity to Live Stream our St. Faustina Masses by going to our secure parish web page at: <https://stfaustina.org/livestream-of-mass/>



Parish Ministries & Upcoming Events



CHURCH CLOSURE DURING CHRISTMAS—Celebrating the birth of our Savior at Christmas and to start the New Year, St. Faustina's campus *will close each day after the 8:00 am Mass on Tuesday, December 26th through Friday, December 29th*. Please call our office with any questions. On behalf of Father Carlos and the entire St. Faustina staff, we wish you a Safe, Blessed, and Merry Christmas!

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Mass Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 — 4:00 pm (English) and 6:00 pm (Spanish)

Sunday, December 24 — 8:00 am and 10:00 am (both in English)

NOTE: Attendance at the Advent Mass does not fulfill the Christmas obligation.

Christmas Eve and Day

Sunday, December 24 — 4:00 pm (English), 10:00 pm (Bilingual)

*This is a Candelight Mass
Christmas Carols begin at 9:00 pm*

Monday, December 25 — 8:00 am (English), 9:30 am (English), 11:00 am (Spanish)



Do you want to make a New Year's Resolution in which you don't have to give up your favorite food or activity? One that takes only five minutes a day and will enhance your prayer life while keeping many others in prayer? If so, please consider joining our Decade a Day Ministry. For all the information go to: <https://stfaustina.org/ministries/decade-a-day/>

The Nativity of the Lord — Great Expectations

by Tom Schmidt, Diocesan Publications Writer

Christmas can be disappointing. We remember the Christmases from our childhood, all the joy, the excitement, and the fun we had. When we grow up, we have to shop for gifts, write and mail the cards, put up the decorations, and do all the preparations that seem to stress us out. We may be sad that the day did not meet our expectations. Now that most of that is done, (unless you are reading this on a break from cleaning house before the grandkids arrive) we can reflect on how the first Christmas upset all expectations.

I'm sure Joseph never expected to have a child so soon. Or to have the baby born in a stable miles from their home in Nazareth. The shepherds never expected to be awakened by angels. And those Jews who looked forward to the coming of a Messiah never expected him to come as a baby. Yet God had reasons for coming in this way.

The nativity scene looks so peaceful and beautiful, but the reality was not so romantic. The messiah came not to the sound of war horns, but the cry of a helpless infant. He was born in a stable because no one had room for him. The first to see him were the shepherds, the migrant workers of the time. The political leaders (Herod and friends) wanted to kill him.

Jesus was born in this way to show that he came not for the important and wealthy, but for the poor and outcast. As an adult, he would continue to surprise: he ate with sinners and tax collectors; he challenged the religious leaders of Israel. He was executed as a criminal.

So today he continues to come to us in the homeless, the undocumented immigrant, the sick, those in prison, the unborn infant, that we might find him where we least expect. Can we learn to see him in the unexpected, in our trials and difficulties, our own weaknesses? When we do, we will celebrate what Christmas is truly about.



A Merry Christmas Party to All!

The annual parish Christmas Party was once again a Holiday Success! Hosted by the Parish Council and co-chaired by council members Carmelita Flores and Jeff Rogers...with most of the council members as their elves...the event had 221 in attendance.

Father Carlos kicked the evening off with a Blessing, and Father Ramon returned, and received a standing ovation, for his rendition of "O Holy Night". Father John and Deacon Cris and his wife, Sharon, were also in attendance.

Carrabba's in Clermont did the catering and DJ Chris Bouille provided the music. Frank Maglione not only provided the "Santa Experience", but he also teamed with Reynold Franco at the coffee bar while Nora Ridolfi made the center pieces and Julius Aita was the beverage host.



A special thanks to our parishioners ... and to Carrabba's ... for their donations of 30 holiday baskets that were raffled off. And of course, a BIG "THANK YOU" to all those who pitched in to help with the setup and clean-up duties. *(Thanks to Frank and Diane Maglione for the great photos).*



The Twelve Days of Christmas

By Marylu Mariniello

For centuries, England was a Catholic country, converted to the faith by St. Boniface and his family, all of whom are saints too. Then in 1534, Henry VIII broke off from the Catholic church to form his own church because he wanted an annulment from his wife Catherine and the Pope would not grant this.



Besides creating the Church of England, Henry and his followers also destroyed Catholic churches, monasteries, works of art, statues and more. Anyone who was a Catholic was subject to death, especially priests. Many Catholics turned to the new English church to survive, but many more stayed faithful, having Masses said in private, protecting priests and following their traditions, but they were often betrayed by servants or even someone from their own family.

Henry's daughter Elizabeth I who succeeded him, was even worse than her father with intolerance. English Catholics were not allowed to vote or to own property. They couldn't be witnesses in court or own a firearm. Everyone was ordered to attend Protestant services and if people did not attend, they were fined and/or imprisoned. All Catholic schools were shut down and no one was allowed to learn anything about the Catholic religion. In order to work in a civil office, a person had to take an oath stating that he or she denounced the Pope and had no belief in transubstantiation. All of these laws were active until April of 1829, when King George IV signed the Emancipation Bill, which granted political and religious freedom to Catholics. Still to this day, no queen or king of England can be a Catholic. Remember that these same penal laws were enforced in Virginia until the Revolutionary War took place. It is also interesting that Oliver Cromwell, who led a Puritan Parliament, outlawed Christmas during the years of 1642 until 1660.

There is a belief that the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," which is an English Christmas carol, was written as code for the Catholics at that time who were not permitted to practice their faith openly. The Twelve Days of Christmas start on Christmas Day and end at the Epiphany in January.

This carol was a "catechism" song for young Catholics. It had two levels of meaning. The first was the surface meaning. Then there was a hidden meaning known only to Catholics of that time. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious truth which children could remember

The song begins with "On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me a partridge in a pear tree."

The "True Love" written in the song is for Jesus Christ because he is love and was born on Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree is also representative because this bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

For the other lyrics, there is great meaning too:

The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments in the Bible.

The three French hens stood for faith, hope and love and also for the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The four calling birds symbolized the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The five golden rings were for the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the "Pentateuch", Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord

The eight maids a-milking were for the Eight Beatitudes.

The Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control and also for the Nine Choirs of Angels.

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of doctrine in The Apostles' Creed.

Many disparage this theory saying the song began in France in 1780, but others believe and like the thought of the hidden lessons.

When the lyric says "my true love gave to me," it means gifts from God. There is a lot of repetition in this song which emphasizes the continuous renewal of God's love.

So as we prepare for Christmas and listen to Christmas music, keep in mind the faithfulness of the oppressed people who learned this song and thank God for our freedoms.

A Merry and Blessed Christmas to everyone.

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