

Revelations

August 2025



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St. John the Divine Episcopal Church

1015 E. Del Webb Blvd. Sun City Center, FL 33573

813-633-3970 office@stjohndivine.com www.stjohndivine.com

And join us on Realm

1. Vestry and Staff

Vestry

Aubrey Thompson -- Sr. Warden

Dennis Accardo -- Jr. Warden

Fred Beckman -- Treasurer

Val Bryant -- Clerk

Marianne Strehar

Jarrath Bradley

Richard Beebee

Susan Morgan

Ronda O'Farrell

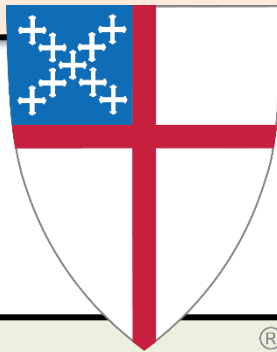
Natasha Nowak-Palma

Katie Arp Cross

Barbara Gentry

D.J. Holt

Mike Magnant



Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev. Douglas F. Scharf
Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Rev. Alex Andujarr - Rector
Valerie Southwell - Music Director
Cheryl Savini - Parish Administrator
Kaye Vaske - Bookkeeper

From Our Rector



One of my most formative experiences as a teenager was watching my grandmother cook. She would orchestrate a symphony of pots and pans, adding ingredients and referring to the secret recipe book in her head. Occasionally she would pull me into the kitchen and start to teach me about the seasonings and spices she used, where they came from, and why it was important for us to keep the tradition of cooking at home alive.

“Food is essential to the soul,” she reminded me. “Take what you’ve learned here and pass it on.”

While the cooking lessons didn’t exactly sink in, I will carry the time I spent learning from my grandmother with me for the rest of my life. It’s also inspired me to consider what I need to be handing on to my children and one day (hopefully a long time from now) my grandchildren.

Long before there was the concept of “intergenerational ministry” the Psalmist knew the importance of passing on the most important lesson that every generation is tasked with passing on, the story of God’s saving work in the world.

My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—From Our

3 things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.

Now more than ever it’s essential that we as followers of Jesus share our faith, our knowledge, and our love of serving with the next generation. This means getting involved with our youth, taking an interest in what they are passionate about, and making sure that as they approach adulthood they are equipped both with the faith that will sustain them in their most difficult moments and the basic skills that will help them lead full and productive lives.

This fall, St. John’s will begin hosting activities and ministries where every generation can gather to pray, learn, share, and have fun.

Messy Church is a popular program that promotes creativity by engaging kids and their families in arts and crafts projects that teach them about their faith and the importance of cooperation. Starting on August 27th, Messy Church will meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 6pm to 8pm in the parish hall. Contact the office for more information to help us plan and host this fun activity. There are more activities and ideas being planned to support families. Stay tuned for more information.

Now more than ever the Church needs to live and work together as a family. God has called us to share our knowledge but most importantly our faith. It is the greatest gift we have ever received and will ever give.

Gut Health



Awhile ago I attended a seminar and received a handout that I would like to share with you.

YOGURT: Contains healthy bacteria called probiotics. To incorporate it into your diet, mix with fruit and granola or add it to smoothies. Check nutritional facts label, for calories, fat and sugar content.

FERMENTED FOODS: Contains beneficial, easy to digest bacteria. Look for these foods; sauerkraut, kefir,

buttermilk, sourdough, kimchi, kombucha, tempeh and miso. It may take a while to get used to the taste, so add them in gradually. Watch out for added salt.

CRUCIFEROUS VEGETABLES: High fiber content, may help prevent constipation. Glucosinolates may lower the risk of cancer. Examples include arugula, Bok choy, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and kale. These may aggravate the digestive track of some people, especially those with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

WHOLE GRAINS: Good source of fiber to help keep things moving. Examples include, whole-wheat flour, oats, and brown rice. Choose 100% whole grains instead of refined. Not for those with celiac disease or gluten sensitivity.

LEAN MEAT AND FISH: Easier to digest than fatty meat, Choose Salmon, herring, sardines, tuna, chicken and turkey instead of red meat. Don't forget about non meat protein sources. Eggs, beans, and peas, nuts and nut butter, tofu and tempeh.

FRUITS: Contains a lot of fiber. Helps regulate digestion. High vitamin and mineral content. Try to get two cups of fruit daily. Bananas are front runners due to their potassium content. Other fruits with fiber: strawberries, apples, pears, raspberries and oranges. If you suffer from diverticulitis, you may need to avoid fruit with seeds during a flare-up or attack.

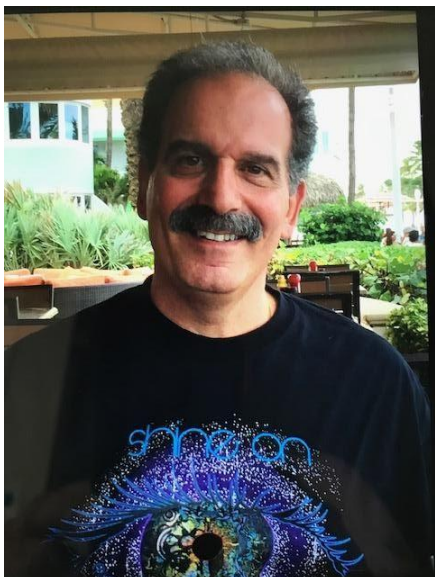
GINGER: May help relieve upset stomach. It comes in many forms: fresh, spice, candies, tea. Herbs can interact with medications, so talk to your health provider.

WATER: Water helps you stay hydrated and also works in tandem with fiber to move food through the intestines. Drink water instead of sodas, fruit juices or coffee. Watch for signs of dehydration, feeling thirsty, urinating less than usual, having dark colored urine, dry skin or feeling dizzy or faint.

Aubrey V. Thompson

Senior Warden

III. Wardens' Reports



From the desk of the Jr Warden

It has been pretty busy at St. John the Divine Church the last few weeks, with the Summer weather upon us, let us continue to be mindful of the intense heat with the weather outside, along with high humidity that has been produced from the reoccurring downpour of heavy rain. This rain has been well needed for our natural environment and wildlife but can be particularly problematic in greatly affecting anyone with a respiratory condition such as, asthma, COPD etc; in constricting of the Airways , along with discomfort in breathing altogether.

Let us look out for each other, young people and older adults.

Thank goodness for central air conditioning. Thank you Lord 🙏

The grounds in the Grace Memorial Garden, along with the surrounding landscape, continue to look outstanding and well-kept an appearance in being maintained on a daily and weekly basis by the dedication and consistent hard

work and labor of John Gentry, on the church campus grounds for all loved ones, family, and friends to feel welcomed to visit in this peaceful atmosphere with loving moments and memories of our loved ones, that live in our hearts forever and always with warmth, fondness, joy and love. In God's loving embrace.

There has been several projects completed around the Church grounds most recently, such as;

All the gutters around the Church building have had all the debris within the gutters removed, cleared and cleaned from the gutters. That was causing clogging, back up with the proper rainwater drainage and removal of water within the gutters.

This was a big and necessary job to be done at our church. This work was done by an outside vendor/ contractor. This cost for the removal of debris from the gutters, was paid for and covered in full by a generous donation from a member of our church family.

God bless you. Thank you!

Additionally, in our church kitchen area a new gas line valve was installed and relocated for easy access for the use of the kitchen gas appliances and equipment.

We thank you for your support and patience in maintaining the upkeep of the Church campus property and buildings. Thank you again

One last thing, if you see something that needs attention, please let me know by writing it down on the sheet that is posted in the front office and also in the fellowship hall on the front tables.

Thank you in advance

Blessings

Dennis Accardo
Jr Warden

III. Wardens' Reports

Events

i9 Sports is now offering clinics and leagues for youth age 3-14 at our Church. They play soccer, flag football, and baseball at this location, as well as more sports at other locations. They offer this on weeknights and Saturdays. Check out www.i9sports.com for more information, or email them at leagueoffice29@i9sports.com



It's Miller Time!

LET'S CELEBRATE THE MILLERS before they head off to their new church! Join us on Wednesday, August 6, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the parish hall to let Fr. Lee and Yoniece (and Peli) know how much we've appreciated all they have done at SJD. We will be having a cocktail party (hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and a dessert table) complete with a delicious summer Sangria punch (yes, soft drinks will be served as well). We would appreciate it if all you bakers would make 1 or 2 of your favorite dessert goodies so the dessert table will represent our appreciation. Bring along your favorite stories!



FATHER LEE

IV. Events

COME SCOUT WITH US!

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
PACK 1015



LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN

1015 E DEL WEBB BLVD, SUN CITY CENTER, FL 33573

WELCOMING NEW FAMILIES NOW!

CATHERINE EISENHART-MORA | 863-370-7608



From the Music Director-

We will be starting a "Hymn of the Month" in August. Our "Hymn of the Month" will be "Let There Be Peace on Earth." We will use this as our first Communion Hymn. "Let There Be Peace on Earth" was written by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller in 1955. Jill Jackson-Miller wrote this song after experiencing "The life-saving joy of God's peace and unconditional love" after she had been suicidal when her marriage failed to Felix Jackson.

This song was written for the International Children's Choir in Long Beach, California. A number of rehearsals by the composers were held for the children's choir from 1955-1957 and it is still the theme for the International Children's Choir, who sang in Washington, D.C. in 2002.

In addition to many performers recording this music, it was performed by the Young People's Chorus of New York City on September, 2015, at the close of the Interfaith Prayer Service and Remembrance, at Ground Zero in New York, presided by Pope Francis.

Also, this is the final song during the holidays each year at the "IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth" fireworks show at Epcot and was previously narrated by Walter Cronkite with music by Sandi Patti and the Harlem Boys Choir.

Musically Yours,
Valerie

Flower Guild



Thank you to all who have participated in our flower ministry through the years: those who have sponsored bouquets and those who have lovingly arranged them for the altar, and then made them into smaller bouquets for priests and parishioners to deliver to people unable to attend church. Also, thank you to all who have given financial support for our beautiful Christmas and Easter displays.

I am pleased to introduce Terry Patten, who will now direct all flower guild activities. Terry has been in training for this ministry for several weeks and looks forward to working with current flower guild members. She is also eager to welcome new members.



It has been a pleasure sharing this ministry with a group of dedicated people who enjoy serving their church and blessing those who are ill or lonely with small bouquets. I hope other men and women will pray about joining this ministry,

Peace and blessings to all,
Yonie Miller

Finance Committee

REMINDER

We have fallen short of our financial contribution goal. The financial health of SJD is very important to accomplish all that is required to keep our church running and thriving. Please be sure you are up to date on your pledged 2025 contributions. If you are not certain if you pledged or if you wish to begin giving by auto-pay, please contact Steve Van Loan at 813 340 5512.

Let us welcome Fred Beckman as our new Treasurer and Kaye Vaske as our bookkeeper. We are excited to have them on board.

V. Finance Committee Report



Holiday Fair!

 **SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 22, 2025**

Your help is needed! Only a few months until the Holiday Fair-time to start canning, making crafts, and putting donations aside for the raffle baskets. Donations of baked goods, crafts, miscellaneous items for the country store, canning jars, games, toys, attic treasures, baskets of all sizes, bags and boxes for purchases are needed.

Please check the sign up sheet for a complete list. Monetary donations gratefully accepted. Most of all, we need volunteers for set up prior to the festival in addition to Nov. 22 and to work at the tables to assist with purchases.

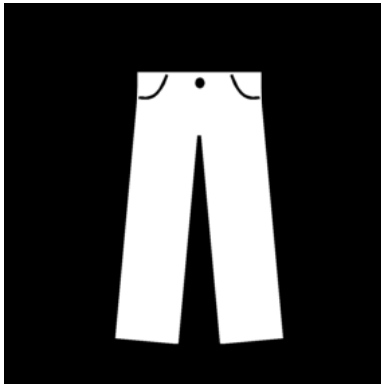
Please place completed needs checklist in box located in the Parish Hall. Contact Betty Berk (813)344-8925 or at bettyberk0224@gmail.com or Linda Jeker (813)391-9552 or lindajeker@hotmail.com if you can help in any way. Thank you in advance



IV. Events

Divine Jewelry Thrift Shop

For the month of August, ALL PANTS AND SHOES ARE \$2 AND ALL BRACELETS AND CLOTHING 50% OFF. Hope you will stop by and find some deals. Do you live in a community with a newsletter or bulletin board that will accept an article and/or ad about our shop? If so, could you tell me how I go about contacting the person in charge? As always, thank you for your support. *Barbara Gentry*



MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICKS

If you would like to purchase an engraved brick to be installed in the Grace Memorial Garden, please complete the order form on the Information Table in the Parish Hall. Place it in the provided envelope along with your check. Bricks are \$100 each and a form needs to be filled out for each brick. Checks are made payable to St John the Divine with "Memorial Garden Brick" in memo line. If you have questions, contact Jacqui DePompe 561 222 0084 or jdep702@gmail.com. Income from this project will benefit the Grace Memorial Garden.



From the Head Verger

ATTENTION! Ordinary Time.



The salutation of my article does in no way indicate that we are marching in Ordinary Time. On the contrary, my intent was to capture your attention. Now, the period after Pentecost Sunday is referred to as ORDINARY TIME or the GREEN SEASON. The first Sunday in Ordinary time is Trinity Sunday. When we say Trinity, we are referring to the revealed truth, that there is one God in three persons. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our life in God is our participation in the eternal love the father has for his Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

After Trinity Sunday, the Sundays are numbered. The term Ordinary time is derived from the Latin word, “Ordinalis” which means numbered. The green season, as it is called, is the longest Liturgical Season in the church calendar. It extends until the Saturday before the first Sunday of Advent. So, my friends get accustomed to seeing green adorning the altar for the next eighteen or more weeks.

During this period, the church reflects on the life and teaching of Jesus as presented in the Gospels, particularly as shown by the miracles, the parables, and sermons. Do not let the name ordinary fool you. This is no ordinary or lack-luster time in the life of the church. The liturgical color of green, signifies growth, both numerically as the church expands and also spiritually, as each member tries to become more like Christ. **Come on SJD, you can do it.**

During this time, we can develop spiritual disciplines and habits that strengthen our normal relationship with God. As we develop our rhythm, we can be assisted by reading the Daily Office found in our Red Book of Common Prayer. We have options. **Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline.** We can do them all, one, two or three. The important thing is that we devote ourselves to the discipline of Daily Prayer.

As we live out our Christian Vocation, let us be mindful that every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In God's Grace and Peace
Aubrey V. Thompson
Head Verger

VI. Verger Article

Christian Education and Formation

1. Join Father Alex for his Fall Class “Called at Any Age” starting on Wednesday, September 10, and every Wednesday until October 29.

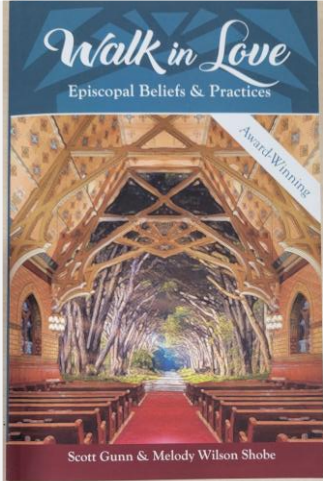
2.

BOOKS OF FAITH CLUB

Books of Faith has started a new ~~book~~ ^{club}.
would like to welcome you to their group!
They meet Mondays from 12:30 to 1:30. via
Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/98747070192>

If you have any questions or want
to see the first chapter, contact Linda Jeker:
lindajeker@hotmail.com


Look forward to seeing you then!



3.

Wednesday Bible Study

At 11:00 AM we are currently studying
St. Paul's Letter to Romans.
All are welcome to attend! Bring your
Bible and join us!
Questions? Call Val Bryant at 813-352-
1207 or e-mail at vjb350@aol.com.



VII. Christian Education and Formation

August Birthdays

Nancy Macdonald - 8/1
Cory-Jeanne Cox- 8/3
Cheryl Clary - 8/3
Barbara Gentry - 8/5
Kathy Bolduc - 8/5
Sue Gehrke - 8/5
Bea MacDonald - 8/6
Bob Mills - 8/10
William Schwalow - 8/10
Carol Collins - 8/10
Don Houck - 8/11
Wilfred Pelland- 8/11
Joe Bradley - 8/12
Andrew Maison - 8/12
Andrea Stingone - 8/14
Caroline D'Antonio - 8/15



Sally Sutton - 8/16
Michael Ann Di Maio - 8/16
Joyce Childrey - 8/17
Robert Cox – 8/18
Terry Patten – 8/19
Maureen Hill – 8/22
Janice Robinson – 8/22
Sue Glawe-Begley – 8/23
Mike Gaudet – 8/24
Yvette Griffith – 8/24
Jorge Capo – 8/25
Mike Magnant – 8/26
John Hood – 8/28
Jacqueline Werndli – 8/29

August Anniversaries

Roy and Joyce Childrey – 8/7
Joseph and Mary Lou Hamilton – 8/7
Gene and Frances Doyle – 8/8
Berne and Cheryl Clary – 8/10
Geoffry and Marcel Butts – 8/12
Elmer and Meredith Joerg -8/14
George and Diane Wiggins – 8/15
Joe and Jarrath Bradley – 8/19
Glen And Celine Collins – 8/19
Robert and Cory-Jeanne Cox – 8/23
Fred and Jo Ann Beckman – 8/24
Lew and Mary Merrill – 8/24
John and Isabel De Tringo – 8/28

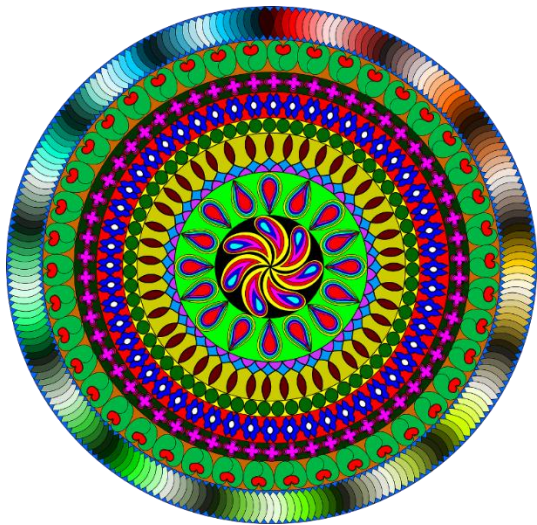


LX. Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care

Members in Need of Healing: Scott and Marianne Horowitz, Cher and James Cerebe, Anthea Parris, Billy Palmer, Paulette Diehl, Frank Ray, Negla Mentis, Elinor Schuierer, Linda Phillips and family, Cheryl Ritchie-Foster, Alice Weisner, Raymond Barrett, Lew Merrill, Isabel De Tringo, Don Houck, Marianne Strehar, Betty Daniel, Mary K. Merrill, Susan Morgan, Hilda Knight, Armand Villemaire, and the Rt. Reverend Michael Curry

Healing for Friends & Family: Marge Jalbert, Jeanne King, Mark Lucido, Colleen and John Colquhoun, Michelle Smalls, Joshua Cruz., Bill Leaman, Bella Welch, Leonel Fernandez, Jaimee Ogden, Joe, Sandy and Jake Janus, Kathy Trefs, Ron Spencer Family, Coleman Family, Joel Morsch, John Pappas, Glenn Horstmann, Barbara Gill



*Do you know of someone who would
like prayer
or
Would you like to be a part of our
Prayer Team?*

The Prayer Chain is different than the Prayer List read on Sunday. A group of over 50 of your fellow parishioners who will pray for any of your needs.

Contact: Val Bryant at 813-352-1207 or vjb350@aol.com

CARE Team



Earlier this year, Fr. Alex began working with the groups that handle pastoral care for our parish. Volunteers from the Grief Support Group, the Good Shepherd Ministry, and Eucharistic Visitors all gathered under the banner of the new CARE Team to share how St. John's has been called to care for those who are sick, unable to attend services, want to receive communion, and need help with basic tasks.

Under the supervision of Fr. Alex, the **CARE Team**:

- Brings Holy Communion to people who are unable to attend services.
- Visits the sick and dying so that they can be comforted by the presence of God.
- Helps those unable to attend worship feel connected through home visits where they can share in games, conversation, and prayer.

The ministry of pastoral is essential to our parish life. I encourage everyone at St. John's to consider volunteering to help bring the presence of God to those who are sick, lonely, and suffering. No prior training is needed, just a loving heart.

Family Ministry – New Program



Things Are About to Get Messy!

We're excited to announce that St. John the Divine will be hosting its very first Messy Church on Tuesday, August 27th at 6:00 PM—and everyone's invited! This interactive, hands-on experience is perfect for kids of all ages (and their grown-ups too).

Messy Church is a fun, creative way for families to explore faith together. It includes hands-on activities, a short celebration, and a shared meal. It's church—but not as you know it!

Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for helping hands to bring this event to life—whether you'd like to help with crafts, set up, serve food, or just greet families with a smile, we'd love to have you on board. No experience necessary—just a willing heart! If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to Natasha Nowak-Palma at (412) 867-7344.

X. Family Ministry

New Programs

Starting in September

- The third Sunday of every month will be **YOUTH SUNDAY** where the younger people in the congregation take over the service.
- Spirit Nite -- A night for a youth group and parent support.



- Grief Support Group in the Evening will meet once a month.



XI. Grief Support

Grief Support



Angry at God

August 2025

Those in medicine and academia have looked at grief and decided our feelings can be categorized into “stages” of grief. This is mythical and there really is no “standard” to follow. Rather these stages are really just descriptions of actions and feelings that can happen anytime throughout your grief period. And I say yours because everyone grieves differently.

One of the five stages of grief is anger. People who have lost someone or something may also find that they are furious with God. They may feel angry at Him for taking something or someone away from them. Even the most devout Christian may want to scream at the sky, “Why, God? Why?”

In some cases, that anger can grow enough that a person abandons their faith. They cannot find a way to reconcile the Christian vision of an all-loving, all-merciful and all-powerful God with their reality. It is in those moments that a Christian may be overwhelmed by the question “Why have you forsaken me?” and decide that there was no God to begin with and no God to forsake them. Let us not forget that even Jesus questioned his Father!

A Christian who is angry with God needs to admit it both to themselves and to Christ. HE knows when a person is angry at Him. Lying about it will do no good. Once a person has accepted that they are angry with God, it is best to express it. Scream, shout, rant, rave and cry. Demand answers. Many in the Old Testament did and most were answered. We who have been angry with God are doing nothing more than reacting like humans, just as so many prophets and righteous people did before us.

Eventually, though, we must let the anger go and pray for understanding and forgiveness. And remember GOD has a plan, and it's far better than we can even imagine.

The Grief Support Group at Saint John Divine offers more than just discussions for those who have lost someone. Grief is a natural process. It isn't a disorder or an illness. You may be grieving about anything you've lost, whether it's a loved one or a job or something that had meaning for you.

We meet every month on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 10:00 AM in the Dons Room in the Banner building. When you feel the need, we can be there for you.

XIII. Outreach

Outreach Committee

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH/SJD KITCHEN

HALLELUJAH. I am so excited to announce that we have a new Ministry Leader. Our new Kitchen Event Coordinator is Susan Morgan. Her creative ideas and enthusiasm will bring the SJD kitchen to a new level! I will continue to work the Funeral Reception and the Sunday morning team will continue to handle Coffee Hours. All other events that involve the kitchen will be coordinated by Susan. The kitchen is still in need of volunteers for Sunday Coffee Hour. The hours are 9:15 to 9:45 and after service for serving and cleaning up. Susan's first event will be the August 6th party for the Millers. I will be working with her on that event, and we will let you know the details at the end of July.

Barbara Gentry



Outreach for July/August

Wimauma Elementary is a neighborhood school for pre-k through fifth grade, located just south of route 674. They are a Title 1 school because of the number of students receiving lunch assistance. For many of these wonderful kids, the gift of a new backpack and other school supplies will be a significant blessing.

There will be a table in the parish hall with information about this outreach and a place where you can leave donations. The school is asking for any school supplies including bookbags, pencils, crayons and other items. A detailed list will be provided.

Gift cards and donations of money can be given also. Some of you may enjoy shopping for the children. I know I do, while for some of you, a financial donation is more feasible. Indicate on the donation that it is for Wimauma Elementary. You may make a check out to SJD, write Wimauma Elementary on the memo line, and put it in the offering plate.

Join us on Sunday August 31 for the Blessing of the School Supplies.