



St. Anastasia

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⇒ **Special interest**—If you've got a smart phone and attend parish events, snap a picture and send them to media@saccfl.org

Hands



&



Feet

Frank Sinatra & Dean Martin Entertained us!



This wonderful concert, arranged by the Sons & Daughters of Italy was such fun!

Frank & Dean were a hit! And as you can see, many in our community came out to support the Lodge in this fundraising event!

What are the ladies of S.A.L.A. up to?



The women of the St. Anastasia Ladies Association attended a demonstration on how to craft personalized greeting cards!

S.A.L.A. gathers on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30p.m. in the St. Enda of Aran Formation Center. All women of the parish are invited to come!

The S.A.L.A. Christmas luncheon is coming up soon! Make sure you check out the bulletin for details!



Preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation



The children in our Sacramental Preparation Program made a craft to learn more about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thanks to the Catechists for helping the children create their prayer hands, sheep and hearts!

Cathedral Parish Trunk or Treat!



Youth and the Rosary



Thanks to the St. Therese Rosary Guild for visiting youth group to demonstrate the skill of creating rosaries! With each bead and each strand the children of our parish learned the importance of the intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary and how to say the Rosary.

For the least of these.....



The response to the Knights of Columbus "More Than A Food Drive" by the parishioners of St. Anastasia was overwhelming!

The 1600+ lbs. of food and the over \$5000.00 in monetary & gift card donations have helped to meet the holiday rush expected at the local food pantries.

The St. Martin de Porres Homeless Outreach Ministry collected 3 carloads of clothing, toiletries, bedding and household supplies.

THANK YOU!!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

The SAY AMEN Youth ministry served up a DELICIOUS Thanksgiving Dinner to the parish! Thanks to Steve Barthelmes and his team of Knights and volunteers who came and cooked the meal, and for all who came out to enjoy this special annual parish tradition! It was a great night and we thank you for all of the donations made to benefit our Youth Ministry!



A Grateful Heart

Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Luke 17:17-18

Happy Thanksgiving! Though Thanksgiving Day is not specifically a Catholic holy day, it certainly goes hand in hand with our life of faith. Spiritually speaking, we all know that gratitude is central to the Gospel message. Thanksgiving Day presents us with the perfect opportunity to look at this particular aspect of our faith. We are called to be eternally and deeply grateful. How grateful to God are you?

Perhaps we all struggle in various ways with gratitude. It's fair to say that we will never be grateful enough until we are perfected in Heaven. But, for now, it's important to look at gratitude and to try to let it increase in our souls.

First, we will never be grateful unless we see clearly all that God has done for us. It's so easy in life to focus in on all the struggles we face and, as a result, to get down, depressed, frustrated and even angry at times. What's far more challenging is to look beyond the crosses and burdens we face each day to see the abundance of grace and mercy given to us by our Lord. Unless we see that mercy and grace, we will struggle greatly with authentic gratitude.

So on this Thanksgiving Day, reflect upon this simple question: Do I see all God has done for me? Do I see His abundance of mercy alive in my life? The Gospel passage above reveals that Jesus healed ten lepers, but only one of the ten returned in gratitude. Are you like one of the nine who failed in gratitude? If so, you most likely struggle with seeing all the true and abundant blessings from God. If you can humbly admit you struggle with total gratitude, you will have taken the first step to seeing more clearly and the first step to fostering the deeper gratitude you ought to have. Being grateful means you see the truth clearly. Be open to that truth and God will change your life as He fills you with joy!

Lord, please do fill my heart with an abundance of gratitude. Help me to turn my eyes to Your infinite grace and mercy. Help me to see beyond the struggles of life and the burdens that get me down. In place of these, help me to become increasingly aware of all You have done for me and all that You continue to do. Jesus, I trust in You.

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Have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving!



Did You Know?

The St. Anastasia Shawl Knitting ministry delivers shawls, lap blankets, knitted "prayer buddies" and other beautifully made items of comfort to nursing homes, hospitals and hospice facilities in our area.

The comfort one of these handmade gifts brings to the residents and patients is an extension of God's comforting arms around them.

St. Anastasia Catholic Church

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Reflection:

"Give thanks in all circumstances."

— Corrie Ten Boom