



THE HOUR IS COMING

March 8, 2026 | **The Third Sunday of Lent**
3/7 at 5:30 p.m. | 3/8 at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., Noon, 5:30 p.m.

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." | **John 4:23-24**

They are a few long Gospel readings we regularly hear on the Sundays of Lent when those preparing for baptism celebrate the scrutinies. They are meant not only for catechumens, but also for all of us who are growing in faith. In today's Gospel, we see the Samaritan woman coming to faith. The steps she takes are our steps, too. | **More on Page 3**





SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

Corner of Twiggs Street & Florida Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33602
Mailing: P.O. Box 1524, Tampa, Florida 33601
Phone: 813-229-1595 | www.sacredheartfla.org



Friars: Pastor, Fr. Michael Jones, OFM; Fr. Zachary Elliott, OFM;
Fr. Stephen Kluge, OFM; and Deacon Ray Ferreris

March 8, 2026 | The Third Sunday of Lent

Welcome to Sacred Heart!

A warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors attending Mass, along with those watching live-stream. Whether you are just passing through or looking for a spiritual home, we pray you find Sacred Heart inviting and spiritually uplifting.

If you are attending Mass on a regular basis, we encourage you to register with the parish. Please visit shfla.org/register to get started!

To our visitors, we hope you enjoy your stay here in Tampa. Our historic church is always open to you, your family, and friends.

pax et bonum (peace and all good)

Weekday Mass | Daily: 7 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

Reconciliation | Daily: 11:30 a.m.-noon;
Saturdays: 4:15-5 p.m.; or by Appointment

Weekend Mass | Sat. Vigil at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday at 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m., Noon, 5:30 p.m.

Parish Office Hours | M-F, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ministries gather at our **North Campus**, which is located at **3515 N. Florida Ave.**

Upcoming Events | shfla.org/calendar

Contact Us

- For Sacramental scheduling, email Jennifer Williams at jwilliams@sacredheartfla.org
- For media and publication requests, email Rob Boelke at rboelke@sacredheartfla.org
- For the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, call **813-229-1595 ext. 302** (VM Only)
- For sacramental preparation, faith formation, and O.C.I.A., email Barbara Ferreris (*adults*) at bferreris@sacredheartfla.org or Maria Giral (*youth*) at mgiral@sacredheartfla.org
- For the Sacred Heart Gift Store, call **813-229-3400** | **Hours:** T-F, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sat., 5 - 7 p.m. | Sun., 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Readings & Music for Mass

Readings:

Exodus 17:3-7

Psalm 95: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.' 'Harden not your hearts.'

Text: Abbey Psalms & Canticles © 2010, 2018, USCCB; Music © 2025, Philip Jakob

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42

Music:

Opening: **G 760**

Penitential Rite: Missal Tones
Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory*

Preparation of the Gifts: **G 644**

Eucharistic Accl.: **G 211, 212, 215**

Lamb of God: **G 217**

Communion: **G 721**

Dismissal: **G 529**

You can also follow along with the readings and music lyrics by scanning this QR Code:



Volunteer Opportunities



Opened in 2021, Tampa Hope houses more than 300 local homeless in semi-permanent shelters while providing food, clothing, transportation, education, employment and benefits assistance, substance abuse and mental health counseling, basic medical care, and case management services in an effort to help reestablish permanent housing. Sacred Heart is an original partner of the facility located in East Ybor, and has a network of parishioners who regularly assist with food delivery and donations to the facility. Donations of toiletries, clothing, rain essentials, towels, bedding, linens, food, drinks, and books are always accepted. You can arrange a donation of these items by calling 813-415-8002. Donations may be dropped off on-site Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 3704 E 3rd Avenue.

THE FIRST SCRUTINY



The Scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, are rites for self-searching and repentance and have, above all, a spiritual purpose. The Scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the Elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good.

At each of the Scrutiny Masses, readings from Cycle A are always proclaimed, regardless of the liturgical year that we are currently in, though we are in Cycle A in 2026. These three Gospel readings highlight the three key symbols of Baptism; Water, Light, and New Life in Christ through the Resurrection.

This Sunday, we will hear of Jesus encountering the Samaritan woman at the well. The First Scrutiny leads the Elect to focus on conversion and on the new life that will begin through the sacraments, particularly Baptism. This is similar to when Jesus offers Himself as the Living Water to the Samaritan woman, emphasizing the thirst for God and the Living Water of Baptism.

Please continue to keep the Elect in your prayers as they continue their final preparations toward the Easter Sacraments.

MEET THE ELECT:

Each weekend during Lent, we will feature members of our parish Elect so parishioners may have the chance to learn each of their faith journeys, and welcome them to the Church.



Catherine Woody, 20

Profession:
Student

Favorite Pastimes:
Playing any sport, preferably outside

Catherine says she “stumbled upon” Sacred Heart, with the beauty of our church and the warmth of the community here able to draw her in. Her faith journey, she says, is focused on finding peace and a baseline for her life. “I hope to relieve anxiety

through this process and learn to surrender.”



Brianna Burke, 35

Profession: Quality Control for Asphalt

Favorite Pastimes: Crafting gifts & gaming with my 17 y.o. son

Brianna has shared her faith journey with Chaz, her partner, who was recently confirmed with the baptized group within our parish’s O.C.I.A. earlier this year. She finds Sacred Heart to be an “incredible community,” and that the love she has felt from the parish since arriving has been “unbelievable,” crediting the friars for offering “such valuable” information to the Elect. When asked what her hope for her initiation into the Catholic Church will be like, Brianna stated, “My hope is to become closer to the Church in as many ways as possible. I would like to use my faith to help benefit those around us in any way possible. I also plan on becoming a sponsor for the next O.C.I.A. class!”



Myai Hoang, 27

Profession: Public Health

Favorite Pastimes: Paddleboarding, being outdoors, and reading

“After a life-changing spiritual experience, I felt called to the Catholic Church, and through many beautiful signs, I was led to Sacred Heart,” Hoang stated when asked what brought her to our parish. “The Franciscan values beautifully reflect Christ’s teachings, especially in their commitment to serving those who are most underserved. The priests and parish community live out their faith in ways that genuinely draw people closer to God, and the beauty of the church’s architecture is a nice added bonus!”

Myai hopes to “remain steadfast” in her faith following the Easter Vigil, living each day “more fully as a Christian.”



Myai is one of 26 members of our parish who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at this year’s Easter Vigil.



Jeffrey Cui, 23

Profession: USF Medical Student

Favorite Pastimes: Hiking & running

Moving to the Tampa Bay area two years ago, Jeffrey found Sacred Heart after beginning to attend Masses while in college. He says the architecture is one of the many things that make this parish special. When asked where he sees his faith journey taking him following the Easter Vigil, Cui stated, “I hope to continue to grow in my relationship with God and the church community. I look forward to receiving the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. I hope to start volunteering as a TGH Eucharistic Minister after my baptism. In the future, I hope to raise a loving Catholic family and pass on the faith.”



Anni Morlang, 23

Profession: Legal Assistant

Favorite Pastimes: Figure skating

Anni’s path to Sacred Heart started as she “wanted to learn more about the faith and how to lead a more fulfilling and meaningful life.” “I want to do more good with the life I’ve been given,” she continued. Our parish is special to her because of “the community aspect and how dedicated everyone is. Coming to Mass and seeing how devoted and accepting everyone is,” sets our parish apart in her eyes. Like many, she sees her initiation into the Church as a means “to overcome my anxiety to better fulfill my purpose on this earth.”

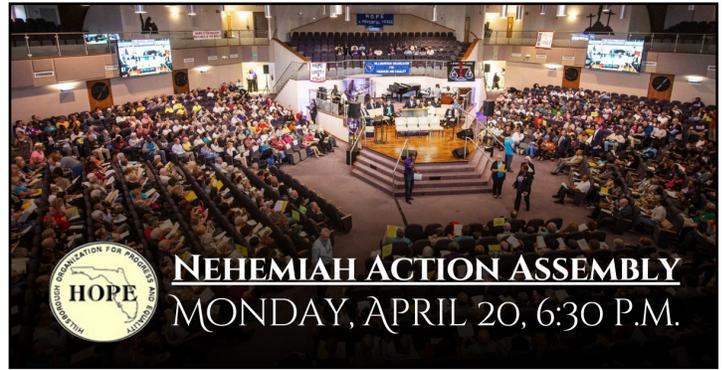


Anni, seen here at the Rite of Sending, signing the Book of the Elect.

Be on the lookout for more profiles of our Elect in future bulletins during Lent. If you, or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, contact our Director of Faith Formation, Barbara Ferreris via email at bferreris@sacredheartfla.org or visit shfla.org/ff to learn more.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE PARISH

DATE	EVENTS
SUNDAY, March 8, 2026 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTIONS 9 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word <i>Church & St. Clare Room</i> 10 a.m. Coffee and Donuts <i>St. Francis Hall</i> 10:30 a.m. O.C.I.A. First Scrutiny <i>Church</i> 11 a.m. O.C.I.A. Catechumenate <i>St. Francis Hall, St. Clare Room</i> 1 p.m. Historical Society Tour <i>Church</i>
MONDAY, March 9, 2026 ST. FRANCES OF ROME	
TUESDAY, March 10, 2026	6:30 p.m. SHYA Small Groups <i>St. Clare Room, St. Francis Hall</i> 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal <i>North Campus Choir Room</i>
WEDNESDAY, March 11, 2026	7:30 a.m. A.A. Keep it Simple <i>St. Francis Hall</i> 7 p.m. Women's Prayer Group <i>North Campus Alumni Hall</i> 12:30 p.m. Wednesday F(e)ast for Men <i>St. Francis Hall</i> 6:30 p.m. Family Faith Formation <i>North Campus</i> 6:30 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul <i>St. Francis Hall</i>
THURSDAY, March 12, 2026	6 p.m. Knights of Columbus <i>North Campus Alumni Hall</i>
FRIDAY, March 13, 2026	7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group <i>North Campus Alumni Hall</i> 4 to 8 p.m. Fish Fry w/Spirit F.M. <i>North Campus Auditorium</i>
SATURDAY, March 14, 2026	9:30 a.m. Hands of Hope <i>North Campus Kitchen</i>
SUNDAY, March 15, 2026 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT LAETARE SUNDAY	CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTIONS 8:30 a.m. OneBlood Blood Drive <i>Outside Church (Twiggs St.)</i> 10:30 a.m. O.C.I.A. Second Scrutiny <i>Church</i> 11 a.m. O.C.I.A. Catechumenate <i>St. Francis Hall, St. Clare Room</i> 11:30 a.m. Historical Society Planning <i>St. Anthony Room</i>



SAVE THE DATE | NEHEMIAH ACTION | Sacred Heart is proud to be one of over 30 congregations across the county to serve as a member of the Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality (HOPE). Since 1988, HOPE has brought together faith communities and groups to build power to address the root causes of poverty and injustice throughout the county. You can answer our faith's call to do justice by attending this year's Nehemiah Action, scheduled for **Monday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Bible-Based Fellowship Church in Carrollwood.**

Each year, at the Nehemiah Action, local leaders are presented with testimonies and policy suggestions that address the issues facing the most vulnerable of our community in front of a collective from each member congregation, often numbering more than 1,500 in attendance.

This year, HOPE has been working to find solutions for families in need of additional resources or support from schools to address their children's mental health and learning needs, more specifically, the needs of families with children on the autism spectrum. Invitations have already been accepted by several local leaders, with the goal of having multiple school board members, county school executives, and county commissioners to also take part.

This focus is in addition to the continuing work HOPE has been doing for decades, advocating our county and city officials to take concrete steps around youth, affordable housing, flooding and more.

You can help our parish network by simply saying **'yes'** to attending this special event. The more people in attendance, the more power to do justice we have. To learn more about the action, and the role you can play in helping us seek justice, email communications director Rob Boelke at rboelke@sacredheartfla.org. For more information on HOPE, visit hillsboroughhope.org.

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 Arlene Bubar ☩ Vickie Davis ☩ Barbara Jean Spencer ☩ Charles Whitfield Boyd ☩ Joshua Wheeler Evelyn Wilson ☩ Parishioners of Sacred Heart Santos & Zen Ongchangco MONDAY, MARCH 9 Rev. Jesse Jackson ☩ Miguel Nuet & Ledwin Correa	TUESDAY, MARCH 10 Vickie Davis ☩ Miguel Mesa & the Yitzian Twins WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 Open Intention Jorge Leon ☩	THURSDAY, MARCH 12 Open Intention David Dean FRIDAY, MARCH 13 Hugo Francisco Andrade Marca ☩ Nadia Alvarez	SATURDAY, MARCH 14 No Vigil Mass This Day SUNDAY, MARCH 15 Roberto C. Gonzalez ☩ Armand Joseph Desmarais ☩ Ann Doyle ☩ John Tempone ☩ Ken Tamargo Keira Fahey D. Walker Tazine Jaffer ☩ Mickey Knepper ☩
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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE PARISH

THIS FRIDAY!
You're Invited By Sacred Heart's Knights of Columbus Council #12110 To Their Lenten...



FISH FRY

MEALS AVAILABLE FROM 4 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

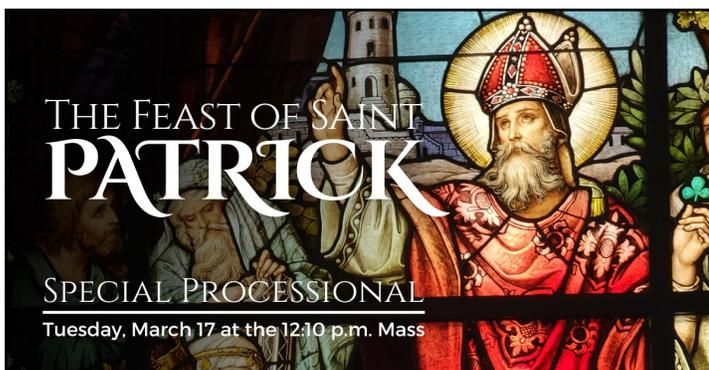
- PROCEEDS FOR THE KNIGHTS' CHARITABLE EFFORTS
- WHITE FISH, AND YOUR CHOICE OF POTATO SALAD, COLESLAW, OR FRIES! (PICK 2)
- ADD A SOFT DRINK OR BAKED GOOD FOR JUST \$1

\$12.50 PER PLATE



WILL BE THERE HANGIN' OUT!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOUR | Following the noon Mass this Sunday, March 8, the guides from Sacred Heart's Historical Society will provide an hour-long talk and tour of the church. This month's tour will center on the Symbolism found within the church. The experience is free. Donations are accepted and used for the upkeep of our church. To view the upcoming 2026 tour schedule, visit shfla.org/shhs.



THE FEAST OF SAINT PATRICK

SPECIAL PROCESSIONAL
Tuesday, March 17 at the 12:10 p.m. Mass

Longtime parishioner and parish advisory board member Steve Krist recently recounted a moment where, "on the top of a mountain in Northern Spain, while walking the Camino de Santiago, (he) met a fellow pilgrim who turned out to be a taxicab driver turned author from Dublin, Ireland. "That serendipitous encounter resulted in walking two future Caminos with my Irish friend, Jimmy Fullum, and assisting him with a book launch here in Tampa a couple of years ago," Krist continued.

Now that chance encounter and unlikely friendship has led to Mr. Fullum returning to Tampa, alongside a group of 10 Irish military veterans to help lead the City's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Not only that, but the group will help **lead a procession with bagpipes at our 12:10 p.m. Mass on Tuesday, March 17, as we celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick** here at Sacred Heart. A reception with a light lunch will be held in St. Francis Hall following the conclusion of the Mass. All are welcome.



Our Gospel this weekend (John 4:5-42) is one of the three longest readings next to the Passion stories. They are always read on the Sundays of Lent when those preparing for Baptism celebrate the Scrutinies. They are meant not only for catechumens, but for all of us who are growing in faith. In this reading, we see the Samaritan woman coming to faith. The steps she takes are our steps, too.

Though she needs Jesus' help, He approaches her first. In asking her for a drink, He is really thirsting for her faith. He invites us to make the journey of faith long before we start by putting us into a faithful family, giving us a curious heart that seeks the truth, sending us a friend or spouse whose example draws us to the Lord.

The next step is acknowledging our need and our sinfulness. The woman does this when she asks for living water and faces her behavior in having five husbands. Admitting our need for God, and especially for God's forgiveness, opens us to God's saving grace.

Another step is drawing closer to God in prayer. That explains the odd question about worshiping on a mountain. Jesus tells the woman, and us, that the best worship is honest and from the Spirit. That is more important than when or where we pray. God hears the prayers of a small congregation in a rural chapel just as well those of a thousand people in a large cathedral.

When we begin to share our faith with others, we take the step of living our faith. We make a difference in someone else's life and they begin to experience Jesus' presence. Like the woman who told her neighbors about Jesus, we find that the people we have touched begin to find the Lord on their own. Our catechumens are taking these steps now, thanks to those who have helped them experience Jesus' invitation to faith. *(Text by Tom Schmidt, © 2026 Diocesan Publications)*

WEDNESDAY F(E)ASTS | Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting.

On each Wednesday of Lent, the men of Sacred Heart are invited to share in these three disciplines **following the 12:10 p.m. daily Mass in St. Francis Hall.** Each meeting will provide additional time for study of the week's Gospel readings, an opportunity to fast, and a chance to collaborate on almsgiving and share gifts with others. Each meeting should last about 30 minutes, allowing attendees to return to work within their lunch hour. Email info@sacredheartfla.org with questions.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE PARISH



JOIN YOUR FELLOW MEN IN PRAYER, REFLECTION | The Men's Prayer Group invites all men of the parish to come and share food, faith, and friendship. The next meeting is this **Friday, March 13, in the North Campus Alumni Hall at 7:30 a.m.** For more information, please contact Jim Rossman at jrossman719@live.com.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP MEETS THIS WEEK | The Women's Prayer Group will host its next session **this Wednesday, March 11, at 1 p.m. in the North Campus Alumni Hall.** Each meeting features prayer for parishioners and personal petitions, revolving themes, and time for introspection and collaboration. For more information, visit shfla.org/wpg.



VISITING CHOIR SINGS AT SACRED HEART
HIGH SCHOOLERS FROM LONG ISLAND VISIT CHURCH

On the morning of Saturday, February 28, the Choir of Plainedge High School, New York visited Sacred Heart Church. Choir Director Peter Lakes, wanted to give the choir an experience of singing in a reverberant space. The choir of 51 teenagers were on a break in the Sunshine State, with no concerts programmed, but plenty of opportunities to sing wherever they visited. They spent Friday in the rain at Busch Gardens and, after their visit to Sacred Heart, the sun appeared. The Choir were most grateful for hospitality shown! - From Philip Jakob, Music Director

CHURCH CLOSURE | The church will be closed on **Saturday, March 14**, as the City of Tampa's St. Patrick's Day Parade will be taking place. Mass will not be celebrated at 5:30 p.m., and Confessions will not be held. The standard Weekend Mass schedule will resume on **Sunday, March 15.** We will see you on Sunday for Mass next weekend!

SHYA SMALL GROUPS | Our Young Adults invites all 18-36 y.o. members of the parish to their next small group meetings this **Tuesday, March 10, in St. Francis Hall or the St. Clare Room at 6:30 p.m.** For more info, please visit shfla.org/ya, or follow the group on Instagram, [@tampashya](https://www.instagram.com/tampashya).



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES | Next week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people both here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at usccb.org/catholic-relief.

SHYA & BATH

YOUNG ADULTS + **SH**

MARCH 19 | 6:30 P.M.
NORTH CAMPUS CONVENT

Volunteers from *Bikes from the Heart* are inviting members of the Young Adult ministry to tour the bike shop, learn about their ministry, and get their hands dirty working on current restorations. Meet at the North Campus Convent | 3515 N Florida Ave.

BIKES From The Heart

DONATE BLOOD

SUNDAY, March 15
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart Catholic Church

\$20 + **PLUS**

All donors will receive a *OneBlood St. Patrick's Day shirt* and a **\$20 eGift card!** Plus, a *wellness checkup* including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse, and cholesterol screening!

APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED.
Schedule yours today at shfla.org/oneblood

oneblood.org *One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details. **ID REQUIRED** **oneblood** share your power

OUR PRAYERS | If you would like to add the name of a loved one who is ill, recovering from surgery, or a family member actively serving in the military to our weekly bulletin, visit shfla.org/prayerwall.

Sick:

Alexandra Rozo	Michel Handley	Olga Mella
Diane Pawlowski	Mike Raferty	Fr. Greg Piat
Raymond Knapp	Bryan Soler	Stephanie Fryrear
Jennifer Shea	Miguel Nuet	Christopher Byrd
Dan Winegrad	Brian Peterman	Janet Walsh
Jax (<i>G. Shepherd</i>)	Tony Stallings	John Holton
	Cara Terveer	Brian Sullivan

Deceased:

Rafael Hansen	Cody A. Khork	Quincy King
Betty Dowd	Rev. Jesse Jackson	Mickey Knepper
Arlene Jones	Noemi P. Mendoza	Richard Mroz
	Nicholas Guzman	

Special Intentions: U.S. Military Members LJ Walsh

Sanctuary Candle: *For our Gift Store Volunteers*

OFFERTORY REPORT:
March 1, 2026

Church: **\$18,793**

Online Giving: **\$12,801**

North Campus: **\$1,571**

Ministry Appeal: **\$1,437**

Thank you for your generosity!

For it is in giving that we receive.

- St. Francis of Assisi

Military Intentions | We ask your prayers for all of the men and women (and their families) serving in our armed forces at sea and overseas, among them our own parishioners and family members:

Lt. Col. Jeremy Tennent, Army

