

# ST. JEROME ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026 | 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



Be merciful, O Lord,  
for we have sinned.  
Psalm 51

Photo courtesy of Diocesan

## MASS TIMES

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00PM

SUNDAY: 7:30AM, 9:00AM (FAMILY LITURGY), 10:45AM, 12:30PM & 5:00PM (TEEN)

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 7:00AM & 9:00AM

SATURDAY: 9:00AM

CONFESSION: SATURDAYS 3:00-3:45PM IN CHAPEL



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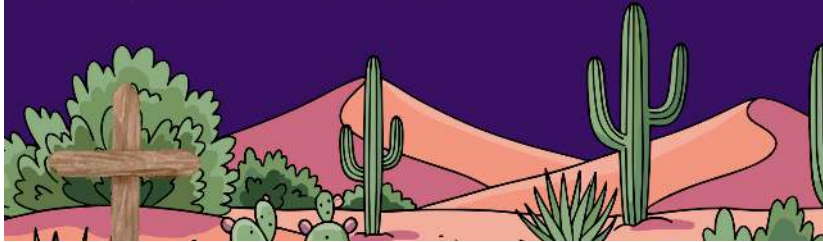
St. Jerome Lenten Mission  
**Fr. Vincent Fortunato, OFM.**

3 NIGHTS!



**MON-WED FEB 23-25**  
**7:00PM IN THE CHURCH**

*Fr. Vincent Fortunato O.F.M. Cap. is an ordained priest with the Capuchin Franciscan Friars. He has served his community for 20 years in Formation Ministry and as Provincial Minister for 6 years. He has an M. Div. degree from Darlington Seminary and a MA degree in Spirituality from Creighton University. He has certifications in Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats. He has taught Spiritual Direction at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall and Washington Theological Union. Fr. Vinny with Fr. Joe Kelly teach a Seminar on Spiritual Direction to Seminary Spiritual Directors for the Institute of Priestly Formation at Creighton University. He is a preacher for Parish Missions and retreats and is a Missionary of Mercy. Presently he is a parochial vicar at St. Ann's in Hoboken NJ.*



**What an exciting week ahead at St. Jerome!** We invite all to come here Fr. Vincent Fortunato speak this week for our Lenten Mission Monday-Wednesday at 7:00PM in the Church. Start your Lent off strong with this mission experience!

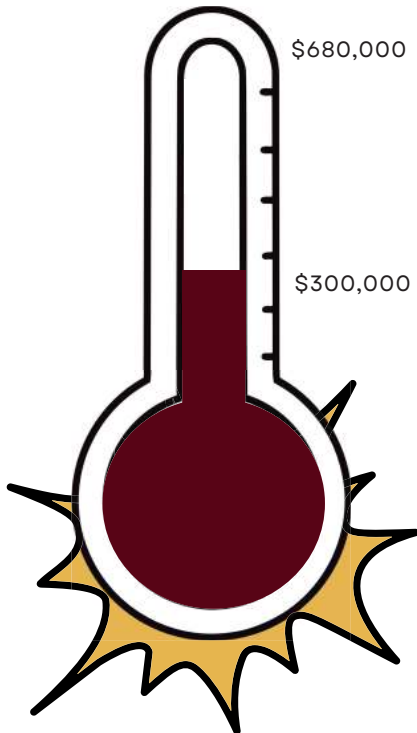
**Parish Center Renovations** will begin on Monday, May 4, 2026! This project will refresh and improve the space to better serve our congregation and the wider community for years to come. The renovation include updates to improve safety, accessibility, and functionality, making the Community Center a more welcoming place for fellowship, programs, outreach, and continue to serve as our secondary worship space.

The updates include the following highlights:

- An enclosed air conditioned entryway/foyer
- Fully renovated and air conditioned bathrooms in the entryway/foyer
- Two new handicap accessible bathrooms
- A new meeting room
- A re-installation of the floor on the kitchen side
- A sturdy new 30 year roof
- And more!

We have already raised over \$310,000 and are nearly halfway to our goal of \$680,000. **We are blessed to have a parishioner who will match up to \$50,000 of all donations received by March 31<sup>st</sup>.**

We invite you to join us in reaching the finish line for this important project for our parish community. Thank you for your continued support, patience, and prayers as we take this exciting step forward together. We can't wait to start this project and share the finished space with you!



Donate Here



## Saturday, February 21st

- 9:00 AM † Geraldine Licata
- 3:00 PM Confessions
- 4:00 PM † Ray Evans

## Sunday, February 22nd

- 7:30 AM † Joseph M. Gryzic
- 9:00 AM All the People of the Parish
- 10:45 AM † James and Rita Greco
- 12:30 PM † Charles Galluzzo
- 5:00 PM † Phyllis Gregory

## Monday, February 23rd

- 7:00 AM Alexander Sochet
- 9:00 AM Janet Oviatt

## Tuesday, February 24th

- 7:00 AM † Matthew Adgie
- 9:00 AM † David Berglund

## Wednesday, February 25th

- 7:00 AM Elizabeth Chobot-Sochet
- 9:00 AM † Deceased Member of the Maciejewski Family

## Thursday, February 26th

- 7:00 AM Dr. Elizabeth Sochet
- 9:00 AM Mary Kerr and Family

## Friday, February 27th

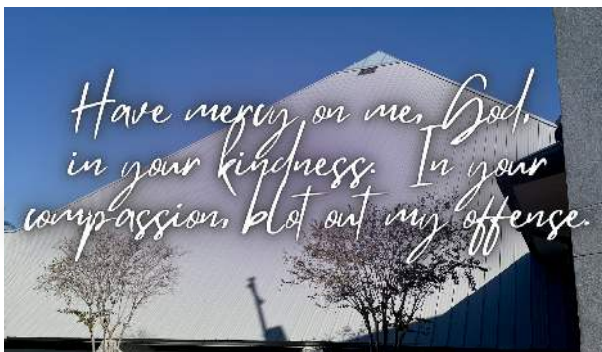
- 7:00 AM † Imre Aranyos
- 9:00 AM † Pam Nunez

## Saturday, February 28th

- 9:00 AM † Louise Fortin
- 3:00 PM Confessions
- 4:00 PM † Ritchie Franzese

## Sunday, March 1st

- 7:30 AM Dr. Elizabeth Sochet
- 9:00 AM Laura Brock
- 10:45 AM All the People of the Parish
- 12:30 PM † Douglas Eschenbach
- 5:00 PM † Primitiva Talusan



## Coffee & Donuts

Coffee & donuts are available after the 7:30AM, 9:00AM, & 10:45 AM Masses weekly! Coffee & Donuts are served every Sunday except the third Sunday of the month, when the Knights of Columbus breakfast occurs.



## Ministry Storage Space

Does your ministry have storage cabinets/spaces in the parish center? If so, we need you to come in and clearly mark your storage cabinets/ spaces with tape or a label with your ministry name on it so that we know that cabinet/space is being used. **Any storage spaces that are not labeled by Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> will be considered vacant.** We are evaluating how to best use the storage space in the parish center and will make changes during the renovation process. If your ministry uses the parish center and needs room for storage or your storage space moved into a different location, please contact Chris McBride, parish manager to be added to the list.

## Pop in the Gift Shop!

Lent is here; come see what resources we might have to support your prayer or home.



## Regulations on Fasting & Abstinence

Fasting and abstinence have a long history in the Catholic Church, and Lent is a hallmark moment in the year for their observance. Going back to the early Church, the purpose behind the custom of self denial is not punishment; it is to simplify our lifestyles so that we create a certain emptiness. In this way, freed from distractions, we are able to hear and respond to God's continued call to conversion and holiness.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 years (inclusive). On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence. "Pastors of souls and parents are to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance." (*Canon 1252*) The Catholic Church requires her members to fast on Good Friday (see exceptions on next page), and encourages her members to continue this Paschal Fast until the Easter Vigil, but she does not require this prolongation by law. Catholics are also required to keep the Eucharistic Fast every time they receive Holy Communion, including during the Paschal Triduum. "Let the Paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, as a way of coming to the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection with uplifted and welcoming hearts." (*Ceremonial of Bishops, n. 295; see Sacrosanctum Concilium, n. 110*)

*Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self denial that are suitable to their condition. Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.*

Abstinence - Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl. Also forbidden are soups or gravies made from them. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles and shellfish are permitted as well as water hen and turtle.



### Stations of the Cross during Lent

Lenten Fridays after the 9:00AM Mass (on First Friday of March after Mass & Eucharistic Benediction) & 7:00pm in church.

*"At the cross her station keeping..."*

### Lenten Confession Times

Every Lenten Saturday  
9:30am & 3:00pm

Before All Weekend Masses  
March 21/22

Holy Thursday 9:00am  
Good Friday 9:00am  
Holy Saturday 9:30am

## YOUTH MINISTRY

is a blast at St. Jerome! All middle and high school youth welcome.

### High School Youth Sundays 6PM

Feb 22, Mar 1, Mar 8  
Mar 15 & 22 - No Youth Ministry

### Middle School Youth Wednesdays 6PM

Feb 25, Mar 4, Mar 11  
Mar 18 - No Youth Ministry

### Summer Camp: Good Counsel!

We will have a presentation from the Director of Our Lady of Good Counsel Camp in the Education Building on February 25 at 7 PM. Interested parents should contact André Kühner at [youthministry@stjeromeonline.org](mailto:youthministry@stjeromeonline.org).



# St. Jerome ECC A Peek into our Preschool



February

Since our last article, our students, families, and staff came together to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. We welcomed families during our Open House and enjoyed special events throughout the week, including a drum circle, where students learned about rhythm and enjoyed making music together. It was a wonderful way to build confidence, cooperation, and joy in learning. We are grateful for the continued support of our families and parish community, and we look forward to all that the months ahead will bring.



We also celebrated Catholic Schools Week with Donuts with Dad (or special guest) and Grandparents' Day. These special events gave our students the opportunity to welcome their loved ones into their classrooms and share in their daily experiences.



Classroom centers were transformed into the Parish office, a teacher station including walkie talkies, and a building center featuring photos of our Parish and school for inspiration!



On Groundhog Day, we read a story about Punxsutawney Phil and learned that if he sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. We went outside to look for our own shadows on the playground, and we found them!

We were visited by Ms. Ashley from Luce Tooth Pediatric Dentistry for Dental Health Month. She taught us how to brush properly and read *The Tooth Book* by Dr. Seuss.



Our EC3 and EC4 students joined Father John for their monthly Chapel visit, where they learned more about Lent and its importance in our Church. They explored liturgical colors, especially purple, and learned why we receive ashes on Ash Wednesday and where the ashes come from.



Until next time! ❤️ Here's a sweet peek at our students celebrating friendship and fun for Valentine's Day! *Recommended Read:* A fun book to enjoy with your child is *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Rose!* by Lucille Colandro.





### Trash to Treasure Rummage Sale Faith Formation Fundraiser Rent a Spot or Just Come Shop!

#### Event Summary:

To support families in modeling almsgiving during the season of Lent, we will be cleaning out our homes to sell unwanted items and raise funds that will benefit programming for St. Jerome children and youth. Registration fees and whatever portion of your proceeds you would like to donate to CGS/ Faith Formation would be appreciate.

#### When and Where

On **Saturday, March 7th**, we will meet in the front parking lot beginning at 8:30 to set up. The sale begins at 9:00 (if it rains, we will see you at the same time the following Saturday).

#### Registration

Parking spots are \$20, paid cash or check to: St. Jerome Catholic Church with "CGS Fundraiser" on memo **by March 1st**. Return registration form & payment to parish office Monday-Thursday, 9:30-4:30 or give it to Stephanie at Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Monday-Wednesday evenings.

#### What to sell:

Participants can sell their homemade wares, gently used clothing and toys, or any household items. You may display them in your trunk or on a card table brought from home.

Questions: Email Stephanie Martin at [Faithformation@stjeromeonline.org](mailto:Faithformation@stjeromeonline.org)

*Trash to Treasure Rummage Sale  
Benefiting Faith Formation*

# Save the Date!

VBS 2026 will be July 6th-10th  
from 9am-12pm

## Rummage Sale Registration Form

Participant name:

---

Cell phone number:

---

Email:

---

Number of reserved spots:

---

Bringing a card table from home?:

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Card tables will not be provided.*

I will be bringing a youth volunteer:

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Volunteer's name:

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*\*This will not be a drop-off event, a parent/guardian will need to always be present.*

Registration payment:

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." ~Matthew 6:21*



**February 16th, 2026**

- Offertory: \$21,892.70
- E-giving: \$4,480.00
- Total: \$26,695.70
  
- CMA Cash: \$113.00



*Thank You*



Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministry Appeal! St. Jerome's 2026 goal amount is: \$226,061.



*St. Jerome Women's Retreat*

**Saturday, March 14, 2026**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: \$20, lunch included

The retreat begins with Mass in the Church.

*GROWING IN INTIMACY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT*

Ladies, join us as we move from knowing *about* the Spirit to walking *in* the Spirit



Guest Speaker:

*Charmaine Carter, MD, MTh*

*Dr. Carter is a graduate of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute. She holds a Master of Theology from Saint Leo University as well as a certificate of Advance Biblical Studies from the University of Dallas. Charmaine currently serves as the Director of Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle.*

Registration Form may be put in collection basket, mailed, or dropped off to the Parish Office with cash or check.

Deadline to register: March 8th

St. Jerome Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd Largo, FL 33744

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost per person is \$20 x \_\_\_\_\_ Persons Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_





## The Columbiettes, Divine Mercy of Jesus Council



The Columbiettes are welcoming new members for 2026. If you are a woman eighteen years old or older and a practicing Catholic, please consider joining our auxiliary. In addition to assisting our Knights, the Columbiettes participate in our own activities, services, and fundraisers. **Our third annual Fun Trivia Night is February 21 at the Parish Center. Please check upcoming bulletins for more details.** If you would like to join our auxiliary or if you have any questions, contact Jo-Ellen, President, at (407) 810-6502.

### Rosary Group

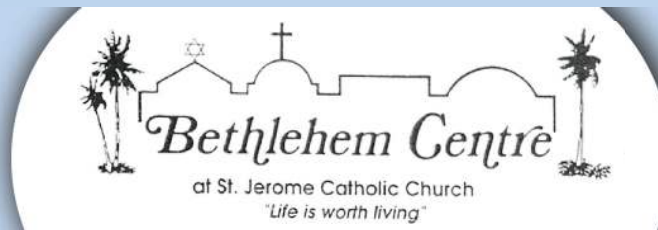
We welcome all to pray the Rosary following the 9:00AM Mass Monday through Saturday, except on days of Eucharistic Adoration. You can also pray a Pro Life Rosary Wednesday at 6:00PM in the Chapel! Questions? Virginia (727) 393-6063.

## The Divine Mercy of Jesus Knights of Columbus Council 17249



The Knights meet the second Wednesday of each month in the Parish Center. We are very active in serving the community, our parish, and growing in faith.

For more information, visit our website at <https://knightsdmoj17249.org>. To order a brick to be placed at the Grotto, visit <https://knightsdmoj17249.org/grotto> and select "Buy a Brick".



Beginner Mahjong lessons available. Contact Diane P. for information 316-350-6522

- **Art:** Fridays 10:00 AM - Education Building - Art Room
- **Bridge:**
  - Wednesdays 12:00 PM Ed Kilroy Bldg
  - Fridays 11:30 AM - Education Building - Main Hall
- **Line Dancing:** Available Now! - Fridays 10:00 AM - Education Building - Main Hall
- **Mahjong:** Fridays 12:00 PM - Ed Kilroy Building
- **Spanish:** Wednesdays 9:30AM - Parish Center Meeting Rm
- **Zumba Gold:** Wednesdays 10:30 AM Ed Kilroy Bldg

Questions: Timothy Kunish: [timothykunish@gmail.com](mailto:timothykunish@gmail.com)



## Lifeline Ministries

Last week Lifeline served 113 families comprised of 399 people. Parishioners donated 256 bags of food for a total of 380 bags so far this month. This includes 1,410 lbs of food collected by our Boy Scout Troop 2022 as part of their annual Scouting For Food Drive. We are grateful for your continued generosity in helping those who need food assistance.

### Items Needed:

- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Canned pork & beans
- Canned tuna/ chicken/turkey
- Canned vegetables (*corn, beans, carrots*)
- Beef Stew, Cereal
- Boxed mac & cheese
- Hearty canned soup
- Pasta/spaghetti
- Pasta sauce
- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter crackers
- Peanut butter
- Jellies & jams

### Bingo

Join us Thursday afternoons in the Parish Center; doors open at eleven, ticket sales start at noon, game starts at one. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Questions? Bill: [knightsdmoj17249@gmail.com](mailto:knightsdmoj17249@gmail.com)



### FAST (Faith & Action for Strength Together)

FAST is a justice ministry in Pinellas county where different churches come together to advocate for the needs of our community. Contact the Parish Office to learn more about our St. Jerome chapter.

### GriefShare

Grief can be complex, especially this time of year. You don't have to go it alone. Join us on Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:30AM in the Education Building Art Room for GriefShare. Questions? Parish Office: 727-595-4610

### Health Care Ministry

Lost or confused about a medical problem, illness or concern? Don't know where to turn? The Health Care Ministry of St. Jerome can assist. We have knowledge and resources that can point you in the proper direction. Don't navigate rough seas alone. Contact us at (321) 403-3356 or email at [healthministriesj@gmail.com](mailto:healthministriesj@gmail.com).

### Millions of Monicas

Moms young & older join us on Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm in the Chapel for Millions of Monicas prayer ministry with a unique mission. Many of us have children struggling to embrace their Catholic faith in a chaotic and stressful world. Like St. Monica, we pray for our children to return to the practice of their beautiful Catholic faith. We are not a support group or a self help group. We do not talk about our children. We pray for them and this gives us reassurance and hope. Please come by this Thursday night at 6:30pm. Questions? [Kathycincotta@comcast.net](mailto:Kathycincotta@comcast.net)

### Music Ministry

More voices needed to join the beautiful Music Ministry! We have Spirit Singers (children's choir - Thursdays practices, sing two Sundays a month), Bell Choir (practice on Tuesdays, play two Sundays a month), and Chorale (Thursday practices, sing weekly). Contact Tom Kurt: [MusicDir@stjeromeonline.org](mailto:MusicDir@stjeromeonline.org)

### Pilgrim Virgin Statue Home Visitation Program

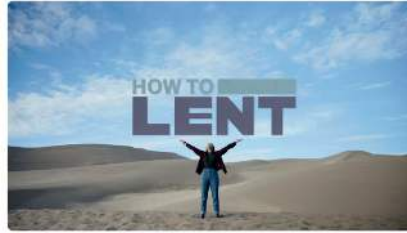
The virgin statue visit program is available to anyone who wishes to host her. Our Blessed Mother (symbolized by her image) is brought into the home with love and reverence for family and friends to gather & pray. The visit is typically a week. Interested? Contact Elrita at 727-221-7040

### St. Theresa's Helping Hands

Occasionally our parish & ministries need extra help with various short-term projects around the parish or fill in when our ministries are shorthanded. St. Theresa's supports those needs. When a need arises, an email will be sent to those signed up for this ministry. You can then offer your assistance if you are available. Interested? Elaine: [StTheresashelpinghands@gmail.com](mailto:StTheresashelpinghands@gmail.com), or: 727-386-8689.

## More ideas for Lent

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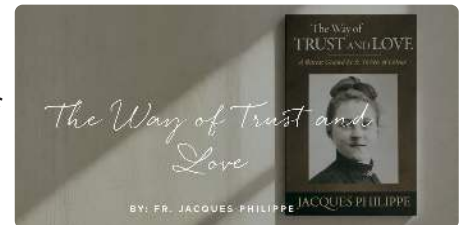
Sometimes, it feels like Lent is just about giving up chocolate. But deep down, we all desire to do something more for Lent—we just might not know how to do it. Available for free using our parish subscription on Formed.org



Crux is a system for doing Lent well. Led by Fr. Columba Jordan, CFR, you'll learn to surrender to God through the adoption of four daily challenges. Available through Ascension.

1. Daily physical exercise, 2. A dietary fast
3. Daily reading of Scripture, 4. A nightly Examen

Fancy a book study? Or a weekly podcast? How about both?! Join Sr. Miriam James Heidlund, Michelle Benzinger, and Heather Khym of *The Abiding Together Podcast* as they journey through “The Way of Trust and Love” on St. Therese’s little way by Fr. Jacques Philippe. Available on podcast apps; book at Scepter Publishers or Amazon

**PARISH INFORMATION**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 9:30AM-4:30PM

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: By request or appointment

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays 3:00-3:45PM-Chapel.

HOLY HOUR & BENEDICTION: Every Thursday, every First Friday, and every First Saturday 9:30AM-10:30AM; also Livestreamed.

Some Masses Livestreamed at: [www.stjeromeonline.org](http://www.stjeromeonline.org) & [www.facebook.com/StJeromeLargo](https://www.facebook.com/StJeromeLargo)

**CLERGY**

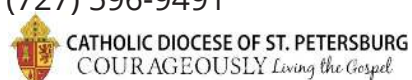
Fr. John Blum, Pastor  
Fr. Robert Cadrecha, Parochial Vicar  
Deacon Fred Kunder

**PARISH STAFF**

Chris McBride, Parish Manager  
Sylvia Cummings, Sacraments Coordinator  
Michele C. Walker, Liturgy Assistant & Receptionist  
Rita Gianninoto, Assistant to Parish Manager  
Tracey Swaine, Administrative Assistant  
Tom Kurt, Music Director  
Danielle Sapp, Liturgical Accompanist  
Francesca Bauer, Life Teen Mass Musician  
Maintenance: Michael Shaughnessy & Bruce Villeneuve  
Sarah Williford, Bulletin Editor

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

Michelle Sherman, Director  
[Preschool@stjeromeecc.org](mailto:Preschool@stjeromeecc.org)  
(727) 596-9491

**ASSISTING PRIESTS**

Msgr. Brendan Muldoon, Pastor Emeritus  
Fr. Michael O'Brien, In residence  
Fr. Anthony Nyong, In residence

**BETHLEHEM CENTRE**

Tim Kunish, Coordinator, (727) 596-9394

**FORMATION TEAM**

Stephanie Martin, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coordinator  
[faithformation@stjeromeonline.org](mailto:faithformation@stjeromeonline.org)  
André Kühner, Coordinator of Youth Ministry & OCIA  
[OCIA@stjeromeonline.org](mailto:OCIA@stjeromeonline.org)  
[Youthministry@stjeromeonline.org](mailto:Youthministry@stjeromeonline.org)

For Sacraments, contact the Parish Office  
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