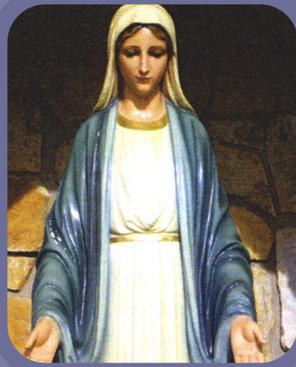


Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish



595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757 Fax (863) 453-2620

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 3, 2019

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9 AM to 2:30 PM

Pastor

Fr. Nicholas McLoughlin

Assisting Clergy

Fr. Leo Frechette
Fr. Gerald Grogan
Retired

Deacon

Dan Hoppe

Schedule of Masses

Saturday Confession

3:30 PM English
6:30 PM Spanish

Vigil Mass

4 PM English
7 PM Spanish

Sunday

8 AM and 10:30 AM

Holy Days

Vigil Mass 5:30 PM
8 & 10:30 AM

Daily Mass

Monday-Friday 8 AM

First Friday

Mass and Holy Hour
8 AM

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www.ologap.org

Why is it called Ash Wednesday?

■ Ash Wednesday is so called because on this day Ashes are used to mark Catholics on their foreheads as a sign of conversion and repentance.

■ Did you know?

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from the blessed palms left over from the previous year.

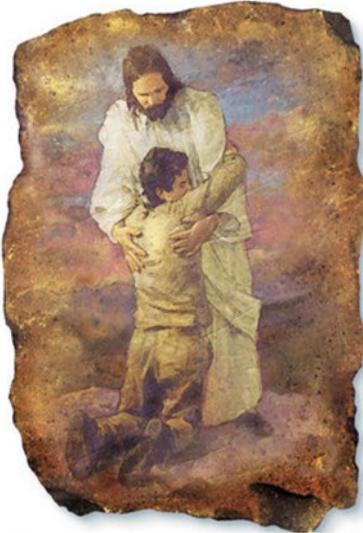
■ The palms are burnt to produce the ashes. Ashes are considered sacramentals and are blessed before their use.



8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ash Wednesday, which officially begins the season of Lent, begins Wednesday, March 6. There will be **four Masses**: 8, 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. There will be a **Mass in Spanish** at 7 p.m. Ashes will be distributed within each mass. **Ash Wednesday** is a **Fast Day** and a **Day of Abstinence**.

A Fast Day obliges those **over 14 and under 59** to eat 1 full meal and 2 small meals: no eating between meals. **Abstinence** means abstaining from meat: **it obliges those 14 and older**.



At the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, the priest signs you on the forehead with ashes while saying, **“Repent and believe in the Gospel”** (Mark 1: 15). The word **“Repent”** comes from the Greek word ‘metanoia’ which means ‘A change of heart,’ ‘A change in attitude.’ John Henry Newman reminds us, “to live is to change; to become perfect is to have changed often.” We can ‘**get** older,’ or, we can ‘**grow** older.’ To ‘get older’ infers that one becomes a person of habit, a mechanical kind of person. To ‘grow older’ implies that there is room for growth. The Greek philosopher, Socrates, gave us the ‘Golden Rule’ for a happy life: **“The unexamined life is not worth living.”** The Church, listening to the Word of God, invites Catholics to examine their lives during Lent. “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” A Lenten hymn puts it this way:

*Change my heart, O God, make it ever true
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you
You are the potter, I am the clay
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.*

We begin with an **‘Examination of Conscience’** which measures our progress in living the normative Life of Christ. It includes examining ourselves on how we live the Two Great Commandments. The Ten Commandments specify what loving God and loving neighbor involve. They in no way exhaust what loving God and loving neighbor involve.

That is clear from Mathew’s Gospel (Mt 19: 16ff) where the young man came to Jesus with the question: “What must I do to possess eternal life?” Jesus responded, “Keep the commandments.” The young man responded, “All these I have observed.” Jesus knowing that he was a rich young man said, “Go sell what you have and give to the poor. Then, come follow me.” Matthew’s Gospel tells us that the young man became sad and, he concludes, “He walked no more with Jesus.” The Parable of the Good Samaritan makes a similar point. In our examination of conscience, we also include the Beatitudes and the moral and theological virtues. St. Augustine sums it up this way: **“Love, and do what you will.”**

At the beginning of Lent, we placed the **Barren Fig Tree** in the Sanctuary. This was an image which Jesus used in the Gospel (Luke 13: 6-9) to illustrate something of the condition of our lives as Christians. Just as the apparently ‘dead tree’ after the winter begins to pulsate with new life in the springtime, coating itself with new foliage, so too the Christian, whose life has been dead after a winter of Sin, can be restored and begin to pulsate again with the Life of Christ. The Sacrament of Penance affords this opportunity.

Area Parishes Lent Communal Penance Services

Wednesday, March 20, St. Michael, Wauchula, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 27, St. Paul, Arcadia, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 3, Our Lady of Grace, Avon Park, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10, St. James, Lake Placid, 6 p.m.

Thursday, April 11, St. Catherine, Sebring, 6 p.m.

Ash Wednesday – March 6, 2019

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule: 8, 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m. Spanish Mass – 7 p.m.



Lenten daily masses: 8 a.m.

Stations of the Cross: Friday, March 8: 5 p.m.

Confessions: Friday, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, 8:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m.

K of C 'Fish Bake' in Grogan Center, Friday, March 8: 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Lenten Regulations on fasting and Abstinence

Fast & Abstinence: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fast & Abstinence. **Fasting** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics, **ages 18 to 59 (inclusive)**. On Fast days one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain energy, may be taken according to one's needs. Eating between meals is not permitted.

Abstinence: All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence is observed by those who are **14 years of age and older**. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Ash Wednesday, and all the Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday, are all days of abstinence.

- **Note:** If a parishioner is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are encouraged to practice some form of self-denial suitable to their condition.

CRS Lenten Practice – Operation Rice Bowl

In the Gospel of Ash Wednesday (Mt 6: 1-6; 12-18) Jesus outlines three practices for the Lenten season: **fasting, Almsgiving and Prayer.**

- **Operation Rice Bowl:** You will receive Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Operation Rice Bowl; parishioners are encouraged to participate in **ORB**.
- Place the **Rice Bowl** in the middle of the family dining room table during the season of Lent. Each family is encouraged to eat one frugal meal on a designated day – preferably Friday - each week during Lent. Suggestions for the frugal meal menu can be gleaned from the CRS booklet, or, can be agreed to by each family. We will collect the proceeds from the Rice Bowls on the last Sunday of Lent.



OLG Small Faith Sharing Communities (SFC)

Groups of 6-10 parishioners meet in parishioners' homes for Faith sharing, based on the Lent Sunday Readings, once-a-week for the 6 weeks of Lent. **Call 453-4757.**



Thank you for Church Service Collection

Thank you for bringing non-perishable food to Church today for the Church Service Center (CSC). The Church Service Center cares for approximately 500 families every month, representing between 1,000 to 1,200 poor people in Avon Park.

We will take a second collection after communion to assist those who come to the Church Service Center seeking assistance with rent and mortgage payments and with water and electric bills. Thank you.



Knights of Columbus breakfast/brunch

March 3, 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Brunch, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Adults \$7: children under 12 – free

Lent Scripture themes – Tuesday, March 5, Conference room, Grogan Center, 10 a.m.

Dale O’Leary, a parishioner, and nationally recognized speaker and writer, will offer Scripture readings with Themes for Lent, beginning Tuesday, March 5th, at 10 a.m. in the Conference room of the Grogan Center. All are welcome and there is no charge. When you are signed on Ash Wednesday with the ashes, the priest says, “*Repent and believe in the Gospel.*” Dale O’Leary will take Gospel Lent themes and develop them on the 6 Tuesdays of Lent at 10 a.m. ”

Season of Lent – Family Prayer Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving.

Prayer: The Gospel for Ash Wednesday emphasizes **Personal Prayer (Mt 6: 1 – 6)**. The contemporary family is under great stress from outside and from inside. **From outside**, the family is under attack from secular forces, which are multiplying models of marriage to suit individual conveniences. The family is also under pressure **from inside**, because of the erosion of the family by technology and the social media.

“Prayer” is the Glue that binds the family together. “The family that prays together stays together.” For Lent let us “give up” the I Phones, I Pads, TV, for a half hour each day during Lent to Pray as a family.



**SUPPORT THE BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION
COLLECTION**

The Black & Indian Mission Collection exists to help local African American and Native American Diocesan Communities in the U.S. spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs on the ground. A 2nd collection will be taken at all masses next weekend, March 9/10.



2019 CFA funds provide seed money for Migrant Housing

With your support to the Annual Catholic Faith Appeal, Catholic Charities in 2018 served 40,200 of your neighbors in need through 38 programs in the following ways:

A First in Migrant Housing in Casa San Juan Bosco in Arcadia: it provided low to medium income families with **affordable housing**: under the leadership of Sister Cathy Buster, who raised \$21 million from

Diocesan seed money, State and Federal grants, 53 two, three- and four-bedroom houses were built for migrant workers and their families at **Casa San Juan Bosco** in Arcadia – a first in the U.S. Some of the seed money came from the CFA and some from parishes. Once you provide seed

money came from the CFA and some from parishes. Once you provide seed money, State and Federal grants are available. Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Venice was the first non-profit to test the market. The houses, while modest in cost, are extremely well built to withstand 200 winds in case of a hurricane. Sun panels are used to heat water and good insulation is used to assist electrical efficiency use and cost. The homes are comfortable with one family to a home. The



housing complex includes a community center for community activities. It includes a learning center with opportunities to learn spoken English as well as computer classes, after school tutoring, and exercise programs. There are soccer fields and play areas for the children and for young people after work. Case management help families to become self-sufficient and to get better jobs. This project is currently entering phase two, which will provide similar housing for almost double the number of families currently served, which will include all of the ancillary facilities.

In addition, the Diocese of Venice has **10 HUD senior affordable housing complexes** that are managed by a professional management company. The Diocese of Venice provides affordable senior housing to 649 residents aged 55 or older. The housing complexes are located throughout Manatee County, Sarasota County, Charlotte County and Lee County.

This is just two of the 38 outreach programs and services offered by the Diocese of Venice from funds generated from the 2015 Annual Catholic Faith Appeal. It provides the seed money for projects like these.

It is for support for outreach programs and services like these that Bishop Frank Dewane appeals to 250,000 Catholics in the 56 Parishes and 18 Missions in the 10 county Diocese of Venice.

Bishop Dewane invites **every parish family** to participate in the 2016 Annual Catholic Faith Appeal. This includes **seasonal residents** as well as **year-round residents**. He invites you to make a **10 month pledge**, which allows you to be more generous than a one-time donation. **Any amount in excess of OLG Goal of \$117,000 is returned to the parish – tax free** – which we use for parish improvements. Please make your pledge commitment in the next week or two so that we can wrap up this 2019 Annual CFA. Thank you and may God bless your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY MARCH 2
 4:00 pm + Ed Castine by Maureen Castine & Carolyn Stine by Bob White..
 7:00 PM Reyna Marin & Javier Gomez by Felipe Gomez

SUNDAY MARCH 3
 8:00 am + Edward Hovanec by Darlene Hovanec.
 10:30 am + Carrie Colangelo by Gary & Sharon Ingalls.
 + Humberto Ramirez by Herlinda Martinez.

MONDAY MARCH 4
 + Linda Faye Smith by M/M Wm Johnson

TUESDAY MARCH 5
 8:00 am + Rudy Tome by Paul & Justine Devlin.

WED MARCH 6
 8:00 am Special Intention for Macky Boone by Kissane Family.
 10:30 am For our Parish Family.
 5:30 pm Anna Vilkaitis
 7:00 pm Spanish Mass

THURSDAY MARCH 7
 8:00 am + Carl Schmits by Bill & Annette Schmits.

FRIDAY MARCH 8
 8:00 am + Bill Cole by Kathryn Hebrink.

SATURDAY MARCH 9.
 4:00 pm + Glen Hartsfield by Ann Hartsfield.
 + Richard Breen by His Sister
 7:00 pm + Jose Luis Martinez by Herlinda Martinez.

SUNDAY MARCH 10
 8:00 am Mass of Thanksgiving for John & Dorothy Andrews.
 10:30 am + Natividad Dairo by Amada Bouffard.

FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Claudette Laverriere	John Minadeo	Jade Jackson
Rosa Arosemena	Gregory Syfert	Ruby Kempf
Payton Haynes	Bruno Litwinski	Gerald Martin
Jean Simmons	Andres Clavijo	Anna Vilkaitis
Zulmira DaSilvia	Debra Kemmett	

And for those who care for the sick, for the deceased member's and benefactors of the parish, and for our loved ones.

LADIES DAY OF FAITH

Topic: Women of the New Testament.
When: Saturday March 16th from 8:30 to 4:00 pm
Where: Grogan Center at Our Lady of Grace
 Breakfast and lunch will be served. Day ends with 4:00 pm Mass. Call Millie Simon at 216-513-1017 or Corby Hebrink at 863-368-0641.

THANK YOU

The Valentine Dinner and Dance was a great success due to the great effort of the entire parish. We want to thank members of the Women's Guild and the Knights of Columbus, and all committee personnel and volunteers. We couldn't have done it without ALL the helpers who assisted on each of these teams. Once again thanks to everyone who had any part of this great event.
 Thank you, The Social Committee, Judy Nugent and Elrie Myers, co-chairs.

SPRING FORWARD

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour on Sunday, March 10th at 2:00 a.m.



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& Ministries**

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Debbie Augusta -
President
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Respect Life
Dick & Marie Carlson
(863) 471-2134

Parish Council

President
Judy Pounds

Vice President
Piedad Sarmiento-Noriega

Secretary
Judy Nugent

Members
Debbie Augusta
Maureen Cool
Darlyne Devany
John Paul Heston
Jim McGann
Karen Hecker
Tina Starling
Teresa Torres
John Wolbert



*The Parable of
The Barren Fig Tree*

Rap

A man had a fig tree planted in his yard
And could find no fruit through he looked very hard
So, he said to the man who took care of the tree
“I’ve been coming here for how many years? Three!
I’ve found no fruit in spite of the toil.
Why should it even use up the soil?”
“Sir,” he replied, “Leave it one more year,
I’ll dig around it and fertilize with care.
If then it bears fruit that will be good!
If not, we’ll make it into firewood.”