Jesus promised “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you” and, you will complete Jesus’ mission. “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1: 1 – 11).
The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord into heaven – from discipleship to Apostleship

Giacomo Puccini was born in Lucca, Italy, in the mid-1800s. He was one of the most popular composers of Italian Opera. His best known Operas include: *La Boheme* (1896), *Tosca* (1900), *Madame Butterfly* (1904), and *Turandot* (1924).

While he was composing what he hoped would be his masterpiece, namely *Turandot*, he was diagnosed with throat cancer. He had just finished two acts of the opera when he heard that there was a new treatment for throat cancer in Brussels in Belgium. He decided to seek out the treatment. But before he did, he called a number of his students together under the leadership of Maestro Arturo Toscanini. They promised to complete the Opera in the event that Puccini died before he completed the work. Puccini went to Brussels for the treatment and he died suddenly in 1924.

His students came together under the leadership of Franco Alfano and Arturo Toscanini and reviewed many of his sketches. In 1926, it was decided to premiere the Opera *La Scala* in Milan. The musical director was Maestro Arturo Toscanini. When he got to that point in the composition where Puccini had stopped composing, Toscanini was overcome with emotion. He put down his baton; the lights and the curtains were lowered; the music came to an eerie halt; Toscanini put his face into his hands and wept uncontrollably. Then, he regained composure, took the baton back into his hand; the curtains and lights were raised. Toscanini turned to the audience to explain the rupture. “That was where the maestro finished composing,” he explained to the audience, “and this is where his students completed his work,” and the opera concluded to thunderous applause.

In today’s first reading for the transferred Feast of the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven, Luke tells us in the *Acts of the Apostles* (1: 1 – 11), that Jesus directed his disciples to “not to depart from Jerusalem” and promised “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you” and, like the students of Puccini, they will complete the mission of Jesus. “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus reiterates this commission before he ascended into heaven in a reading from *Mark’s Gospel*: “Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Whoever believe and is baptized will be saved…”

After Jesus said this, he “was taken up to heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God.” Mark says, the disciples “went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.” They set about completing his mission.

What an appropriate time to celebrate Graduation from High School and College. The Ascension of Jesus into heaven was an end and a beginning for his disciples. His mission had transitioned from Jesus to his disciples who would now continue his mission. Discipleship had given way to apostleship; they went from being “followers” to “being sent” to continue and to complete the mission of Jesus. The word “graduation” comes from the Latin word meaning “step.” Our graduates have completed a step in their right-of-passage. May the Holy Spirit continue to enlighten and guide them as they continue to make important life decisions?
The annual collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) will take place in many dioceses across the United States on the weekend of June 8/9, coinciding with World Communications Day. This annual national appeal supports efforts in the United States and around the world to use the media, internet, and print publications to help people connect with Christ.

Fifty percent of the funds collected remain in each diocese to support local communication efforts. The other half is used to support national projects in the United States and in developing countries around the world.

For example, the Catholic Communication Campaign supports the production of daily video scripture reflections featured on the USCCB website that are viewed daily by millions of people and a YouTube channel that has 23,000 subscribers. The USCCB’s website served 17.5 million users last year and is also supported by the CCC.

Church Service Center (CSC) collection June 1/2
We thank you for bringing non-perishable food to Church this weekend, June 1/2, for the CSC. It is an interchurch collaborative effort which cares for 500 families every month, representing 1,200 poor people in Avon Park. We will take a 2nd collection for the CSC after communion.

First Friday Mass and exposition, June 7.
Friday, June 7th, is the First Friday of the month. The 8 a.m. Mass will be followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will conclude with Benediction at 9 a.m.

Box tops for St. Catherine Catholic School
There are 1,250 registered families in Our Lady of Grace Parish. Oftentimes, parishioners say, I would like to do something for the only Catholic Grade School in Highlands County, St. Catherine’s in Sebring. If families saved their Box tops and brought them to Church on the 1st Sunday of the month and deposited them in a box for that purpose at the Main Entrance to the Church, St. Catherine’s would receive a few hundred dollars every month.
Where?

St. Catherine Catholic Grade School,
2835 Kenilworth Blvd,
Sebring, Fl., 33870

Sign up Now: Contact Diane Andrews,
Andrews@stcathe.com Or Call 863-385-7300

For ages 5 through 7th Grade

When?

June 3-7, 2019
June 10-14, 2019
June 17-21, 2019
July 1-3, 2019
July 8-12, 2019

Spanish – Religion – Vacation - Bible School
Couples for Christ

Fundraising Event to send OLG young people to the National Conference in San Diego, July 12 – 14th, 2019.

Theme

A taste of Filipino Culture

Grogan Center, Sunday, June 2, 9 – 3 p.m.

Box Dinner: Chicken I nasal (BBQ), Pansit (noodles) & Turon (banana fritters) - $10.00
### MASS INTENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>JUNE 1</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>+ Stanley Worthington by Dad &amp; Mom.</td>
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<td>+ Robert Kubera by Bob &amp; Joan Mack.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>JUNE 2</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>+ Anthony Verzi by The Cotter Family.</td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Roland Seguin by His sister Margot Burt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>JUNE 3</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Mary Thomas &amp; John Casey by Maureen Castine.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>JUNE 4</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Daniel Panchura by Uncle Dick, Kim &amp; Nancy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED</td>
<td>JUNE 5</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>+ Judy Guerin by Judy &amp; Ralph Todino</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>JUNE 6</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>+ Judy Schmits by Bill &amp; Annette Schmits.</td>
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<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>JUNE 7</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>+ Joan &amp; Tim Roche by Neal Roche.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>JUNE 8</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>+ Glen Hartsfield by Ann Hartsfield.</td>
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<td>+ Liza M Charest by Gary &amp; Sharon Ingalls.</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>+ Julio Arroyo by Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>JUNE 9</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>+ Rudy Tome by Bob Tome.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>+ Edward Sarmiento by Family.</td>
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### FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Claudette Laverriere  
John Minadeo  
John Wagner  
John Minadeo  
Jade Jackson  
Rose Arosemena  
Gregory Syfert  
J.R. Lejeune  
Zulmira DASilva  
Bruno Litwinski  
Jaxson Thrift  
Debra Kemmet  
Julie Johnston  
Andres Clavijo  
Gerald Martin  
Liliana Morales  
Sylvia Schmitt  
John Wagner  
And for those who care for the sick, for the deceased member's and benefactors of the parish, and for our loved ones.

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

There will be safe environment Training Sessions at Our Lady of Grace, Avon Park in English and Spanish on Thursday, June 6 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Saturday June 8th from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Training sessions will be held in the Religious Education Building. All people working with children or vulnerable adults must be fingerprinted and attend a safe environment session. You must preregister for these sessions. You can register online or by calling Betty 453-4757.

### ADVENT HEALTH HOSPITAL

Advent Health has informed Our Lady of Grace Church that patients lists will not be given to Clergy or Eucharistic Ministers. An emergency will be taken on call. Our Lady of Grace clergy and EM will visit the patients if names are given to the Parish Office @453-4757 by the Chaplain or a family member. (*This is the only way we know you are a patient there.*)

### CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

Our Lady of Grace is still short $45,000.00 from our assessed amount. If you have not made your pledge or payment, please do so as soon as possible. Envelopes are available at all exits of the Church.

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**Thank You**

I want to say thank you to all who attended my 90th Birthday celebration last Sunday. Thank you for all your kind wishes and cards.

Sincerely, Fr. Leo Frechette
The Chapel of the Ascension in Jerusalem today is a Christian and Muslim holy site now believed to mark the place where Jesus ascended into heaven. In the small round church/mosque is a stone imprinted with what some claim to be the very footprints of Jesus.

Inside the chapel is the reputed Footprints of Jesus before he ascended into heaven.