

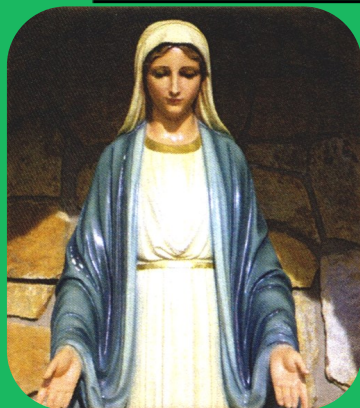
Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

August 30, 2026

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Fr. Ronnie Sison
Pastor

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 6:30 PM
8 & 10:30 AM

Daily Mass

Tuesday-Friday
8 AM

First Friday

Mass and Holy Hour
8 AM

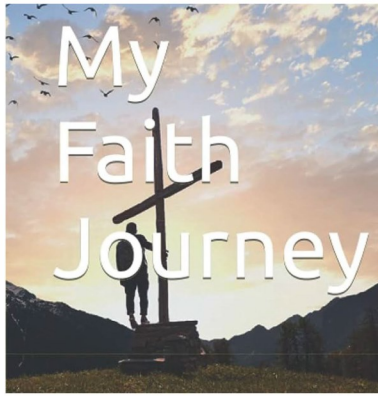
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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go up to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then **Peter** took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, *"God forbid, Lord! No such things shall ever happen to you."* He turned and said to Peter, *"Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do"* (Mt 16: 21 -23).

Is the source of our problem with God, falling into the **Peter syndrome**, attempting to fashion a God of our own *"thinking,"* in the words of the English apologist, G.K. Chesterton, *"God made us to his image & likeness, & we returned the compliment,"* fashioning a God of our own making.



Faith – coming to know Jesus - is a faith journey

Last Sunday's Gospel ended on a discordant note when Jesus instructed his disciples *"to tell no one that he was the Christ"* (Mt 16:20). Jesus had just put the question to his disciples, *"Who do you say that I am?"* Peter, answering for the disciples, said, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* Jesus commends Peter for his answer and assures him *"that flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven"* – God is the source of faith. Toward the end of this exchange, Jesus *"strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ."* Why?

Today's Gospel gives us an insight into the answer. Immediately after Peter's great confession of faith *"You are Christ, the Son of the living God,"* Jesus begins to *"show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."* Peter had expected Jesus to begin to talk about victory and freedom, not about suffering and being killed – that appeared to be a contradiction of Peter's profession of faith, *"You are Christ, the Son of the living God."* Peter's understanding was that the Messiah, the Savior, is to conquer, not suffer, he is to liberate, not perish. Because this was **Peter's understanding, he took Jesus aside and began to "rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you.'** G.K. Chesterton, the great late English apologist, warns all of us against the **Peter syndrome**, in his reaction to Jesus' revelation that he must suffer and die, when he said, *"God created us to his image and likeness and, we returned the compliment."* Peter wanted to refashion his understanding of who Jesus is, as the *"Christ,"* the *"Messiah,"* to suit his own expectations. This was why Jesus, at the end of last week's Gospel segment, which preceded today's account, *"strictly charged his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ."*

Peter's profession that Jesus *"was the Christ, the Son of the living God"* was accurate; he **did not understand the implications of his response.** This was why Jesus told Peter *"to tell no one that he was the Christ."*

The famous German Jesuit theologian, **Father Karl Rahner**, reminded us that by the age of ten or twelve we have **the core of our faith.** He said, we spend the rest of our lives attempting to understand it. This is what theology is all about - *"Faith seeking understanding."* Jesus reveals who he is incrementally, in stages, contingent on our ability to understand him. Peter and the disciples had their core faith; they would have to allow Jesus over time to tease out its deeper understanding. This is what Jesus does in today's Gospel. *A faith journey*, implies that coming to the fullness of faith **is a journey that we must make**, if we are to come to know who Jesus is.

It is for this reason that we invite parents to enroll their children in the School of Religion, so that they will continue to *"grow in wisdom, age and faith,"* in coming to know *"Who Jesus is"* and *"what being a disciple of his involves."* Classes begin for grades 7 – 12, Wednesday, September 2nd, 6:30 – 8 p.m. & for grades PreK4 – 6, Sunday, September 6, 9 - 10:15 a.m.

If you have friends who are searching, invite them to come to the **OCIA, the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, which is an introduction to who Jesus is for adults**, from the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. **Call Parish Office (863) 453-4757 for information and to register.**



New Diocese of Venice Bishop Emilio and Fr Ronnie with very happy and welcoming parishioners



Bishop Emilio with Church organist Gene Ryan & his wife Rebecca – Becky.



Fr Ronnie concelebrates a mass of welcome and Thanksgiving with new bishop of Venice, Emilio.



The DOV feels blest with new Bishop



Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

"The Future starts today not tomorrow"

St. Pope John Paul II

Registration for School of Religion

Classes Begin

**Wednesday, September 2nd, for grades 7 – 12,
Confirmation class & Bible study: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.**

**Sunday, September 6th, for grades pre-K 4 - 6,
9 – 10:15 a.m.**

Parents can register their children for the School of Religion:

Register in Sarah MacDonald Education Bldg.

Monday to Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

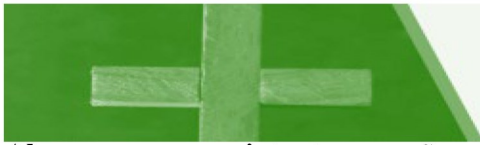
Information: call Mayra Donan,

Director of Religious Education: (863)453-7537

Catechetical Sunday – Sunday, September 20th, 10:30 a.m.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) designated Sunday, Sept 20th Catechetical Sunday. This year's theme is: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to bring good news to the poor"* (Lk 4:18). Parishes traditionally commission catechists during Mass on this day, normally 10:30 A.M. Mass

First family Mass, Sunday, October 4th, 10:30 a.m.



22° DOMINGO TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Algunas personas intentan enseñar que, dado que Jesús resucitó de entre los muertos, también deberíamos poder vivir de esa forma: gozándonos, pero nunca afligidos. Pero si predicamos la resurrección sin la cruz, estamos actuando como Pedro en el Evangelio.

Pedro acababa de proclamar que Jesús era el Mesías, pero no entendió que la misión de Jesús no era traer riqueza y gloria a Israel. Al igual que las tentaciones de Satanás en el desierto, Pedro quería que Jesús tomara el camino fácil hacia la gloria.

En cambio, Jesús nos pide negarnos a nosotros mismos. Esta frase no es muy popular entre quienes dicen que debemos ser libres para satisfacer todos nuestros deseos, o entre los oradores motivadores que dicen que todo el mundo es capaz de alcanzar el éxito financiero y vivir una vida cómoda. Mientras centremos nuestras vidas en nuestro propio placer y comodidad, estamos rechazando la cruz. Negarse a sí mismo significa escoger la voluntad de Dios sobre la nuestra. Significa estar dispuesto a sufrir por ser honesto. Significa darle a Dios el primer lugar en nuestras vidas. Significa que obtengamos más alegría sirviendo a los demás que sirviéndonos a nosotros mismos. Como dice Jesús, perdemos nuestra vida por él, solo para encontrarla amándolo y sirviéndolo. Todos estamos llamados a perder nuestras vidas egoístas y encontrar el verdadero gozo de vivir para Jesús.

—Tom Schmidt

ORACIÓN

POR EL REGRESO A CLASES:

Señor Jesús, tú que eres el Emmanuel, el Dios con nosotros que está siempre a nuestro lado, te rogamos Señor que acompañes a nuestros niños y jóvenes en este regreso a clases. No permitas que los múltiples distractores y peligros interrumpen su esfuerzo para prepararse, ser mejores personas y así contribuir un día a hacer de nuestra patria y sociedad realidades que reflejen tu amor y bondad. Amén.

Educación Religiosa

Primer día de clases



Grados 7-12, Confirmación y Clase de Biblia

Miércoles, Septiembre 2 de 6:00 – 8:00PM

Grados PreK4 – 6

Domingo, Septiembre 6 de 9:00 –10:15AM

La Oficina está abierta martes a viernes de 9am a 5pm para inscripciones. Para información llamar Mayra Doñan 863-453-7537.



GRUPO DE ORACIÓN “SANTISIMA TRINIDAD”

Se reúne los jueves a las 7:00pm en el Salón MacDonald. Rosario a las 6:30. Para información llamar Hortencia 863-448-6869 o Adela 863-528-8267.

Créstele cuenta contigo !!



GRUPO JUAN XXIII

Se reúne los martes en el salón Juan Bosco a las 7:00PM. Para información llamar Omar 863-205-0694 o Elvin 863-852-0065.

MASS INTENTIONS**SATURDAY AUGUST 29**

4:00 p.m. + Michael Rand by Family.

7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass.

SUNDAY AUGUST 30

8:00 a.m. + Marta Montana by Carlos Ponce.

10:30 a.m. + Art Malagna by Victoria.

MONDAY AUGUST 31

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1

8:00 a.m. + Henri Herrick by Paul and Justine Devlin.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2

8:00 a.m. + James & Bernadine Black by Bert & Deb Grant.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3

8:00 a.m. Thanksgiving for the many Blessings of God – Maria Nguyen.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4

8:00 a.m. Souls of Purgatory.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5

4:00 p.m. + William & Virginia Cook by Evelyn Seely.

7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass.

EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN

To give spiritual support to those who are undergoing health or personal problems that call for immediate prayer, we have established an “**Emergency Prayer Chain**” made up of prayer volunteers who respond to personal requests. Confidentiality is assured. To request prayers, contact **Kevin Murphy** by text (863) 443-1852 or email (kmurphy8479@gmail.com).

FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Joan Morgan	Candida Reyes	Kathy Furtado
Rosa Arosemena	Andres Clavijo	Jade Jackson
Martha Clavijo	Carol Krause	Donna Skelly
Roger Brelinski	Jean Rapp	Rosemary Melinson
Cameron Prosperi	Deb Perry	Louise Schorsch
Donald Schorsch	Ed Carrigan	Joey Prescott
Bea Pedara	Marty Worley	Sharon Ingalls
Susan Beaudoin	Amy Slane	Jeff Babbitt
Rose Brault	Waylen James	Sherry
Jerry Grinkiewicz	Jeannie Stopa	Jim Stopa
Marie Burley	Rick Burley	Ron Maslyk
Kathy Reisert	Clay Gooch	Janice Vreeland
Joan Trace	Jan Raccine	Paul Repa
Joan Reetz	Brenda Buergi	Jackie & Steven
Waylon James Adams	Michael Thomas Adams	
Jennifer Vohs	Terry O'Leary	Coty Quillman
Jacqueline Orlando	Jane DeSantis	

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

HURRICANE PRAYER

God, our Father, Creator and Lord of the Universe, You have set the earth on its foundation and all elements of nature obey your command. We humbly beseech you to keep us safe from all dangers and calm the storms that may threaten us. May we be secure in your loving protection and serve you always with grateful hearts. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

Staff & Ministries

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Women's Guild

Debora Augusta
President
(863)991-1020

OCIA Director

Travis & Dawn Crosson
(863)453-4757

Parish Council

President

Betty Anne Lee
863-873-7176



Collection for Church Service Center

We invite you to bring non-perishable food to Church next weekend, September 5/6, to all masses, for the Church Service Center (CSC). The Church Service Center represents Avon Park area Churches in collaboration with their response to the poor people in Avon Park. The CSC on average assists 1,000 poor families, representing approximately in excess of 1,000 – 1,500 poor people, on a monthly basis. Please be generous in response to our appeal. And may God bless and reward you.



The population of Highlands County is approximately 112,352: approximately 16,000 live in poverty, that is approximately 15% off the total population.

Avon Park is listed as the poorest of the three cities of Highlands County with a median household income of \$36,485, with a population of 10,356; Sebring is listed as the second poorest city with a median household income of \$44,184, with a population of 11,382; and, Lake Placid is listed as the third poorest city with a median household income of \$47,018, with a population of 2,477.