

Our Lady of

Grace
Catholic Parish



595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 19, 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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www.ologap.org

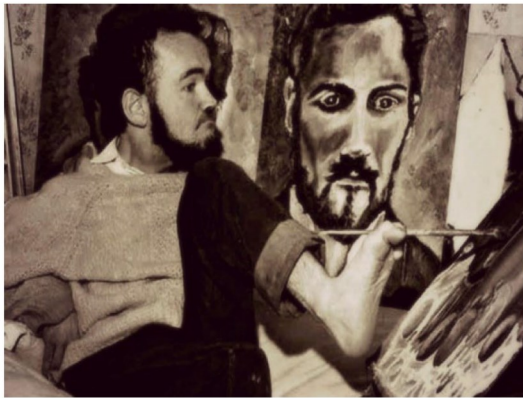


Third Sunday of Easter

“And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him in the breaking of the bread” (Gospel: Luke 24: 13 - 35)

Is this Luke's Account of 'Beauty & the Beast'? Christy Brown, a disabled Irish writer, died in 1981. He was born with cerebral palsy which left him crippled, physically deformed and confined to a wheel chair. His speech was difficult to understand. He had some movement in his left foot; he could move his toes. He learned to type with the big toe in his left foot. He became an acclaimed artist holding the paint brush between his toes. **His appearance was quite ugly.**

When he was an older teenager, he saw a picture of the **English novelist, Margaret Foster**, on the dust cover of one of her books, and immediately fell in love with her. He wrote her a letter that brimmed with charm and wit. **She replied and thus began a warm friendship.** Christy Brown was very anxious to meet her. However, **she was not aware that he was severely handicapped;** when she became aware, she did not want to meet him. From the kind of letters he wrote, she had formed a very beautiful image of him in her mind. Meeting him might destroy that image. They did eventually meet. By that time Christy Brown had become a famous writer. He



wrote a bestselling autobiography entitled **"My left foot,"** which was made into a movie that won 2 academy awards. **When Margaret Foster first met Christy Brown and saw how severely handicapped, he was and, almost impossible to understand when he spoke, she couldn't accept it.** She stopped answering his letters, and **their friendship ended.** Christy's greatness lay in the fact that, despite his handicap, he still managed to write those beautiful letters. But Margaret Foster was unable to see this. **All she saw was his twisted body.** Unable to accept this, she eased him out of her life.

The death of Jesus had a similar effect on his disciples. They had come to believe, or, hope, that He was **the promised Messiah.** Like Margaret Foster, they had **an idealized image of Jesus** in their own minds. They imagined him to be **a great military leader.** The idea of a **suffering and crucified Messiah** was miles from their minds. This is what the **two disciples on the road to Emmaus** express on Easter Sunday evening as they leave the Church and Jerusalem, **"We were hoping that he was the one who would set Israel free."** What they **saw on Good Friday** was a **crucified man, worse than a common criminal.** This shattered all the hopes of Jesus' followers.

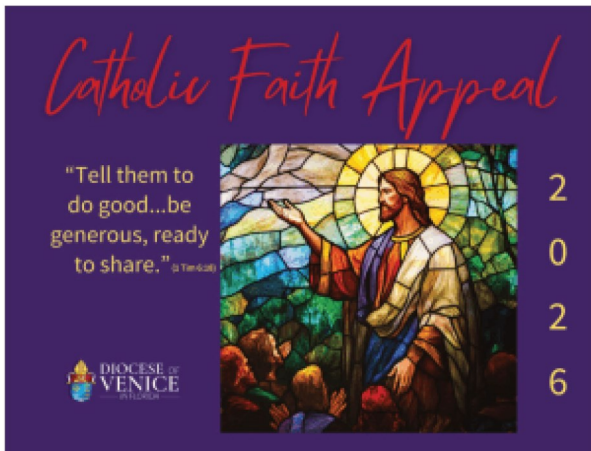
The greatness of Christy Brown lay in the fact that, in spite of his severe handicap, he was able to express his inner beauty in his writings. It was in his very ugliness, his woundedness, his brokenness that Jesus reveals to you and me, as he did to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, to Thomas and his disciples, **the beauty of his love, hidden behind the ugliness on the Cross**

Jesus **"opened the Scriptures"** to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus; when they sit down to eat with him **"they recognize him in the breaking of the bread,"** a reference to the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Like the two on the road to Emmaus, Jesus **"opens the Scriptures to us"** in the first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word. This builds up our faith and enables us to **"recognize"** Jesus in the **"breaking of the bread"** in the 2nd part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The priest says, as he distributes the Eucharist, **"The Body of Christ"** to which we respond, **"Amen," "I believe,"** expressing our **"recognition"** of Jesus in the Eucharist.





Fr Ronnie and OCIA leaders, the Crossan's, welcome, Baptize and Receive Teens and young adults into the Church at a beautiful Easter Vigil Service. Welcome and God's choicest Blessings.



The 2026 Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) update

It is an opportunity to grow in faith and to express that faith in action.

"Tell them to do good . . . be generous, ready to share." (1 Tim 6:18)

Please take time to celebrate our faith and discern how to put your gifts into service for one another and for those in need.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane offers deep appreciation for your support of the Diocese’s annual Catholic Faith Appeal.



2026 OLG Parish Catholic Faith Appeal Goal: Goal; \$132, 000; to date received, \$52,608, 40% of goal, from 6% of parishioners. 1274 families enrolled in OLG Parish: 94% have yet to make a commitment to the 2026 CFA.

2 kinds of Parishioners in OLG

- Resident Parishioners
- Seasonal Parishioner (“Snow birds”)

What should each commit to 2026 CFA Appeal?

➤ **Resident parishioners:**

Make a 10-month commitment; it allows you to be more generous over an extended period of time. Holy week, last week, reminds us of how generous God is to us. He gave us everything – His only begotten Son. Let us be generous in taking care of those who are wounded in the 10 county Diocese of Venice by being generous with the healing ministry of God’s Son today.

➤ **Seasonal Residents (“Snow-birds”)**

You, too, are asked to make a generous commitment for the period of time that you are here – 1 to 6 months. Make a generous monthly commitment for the time that you are here.

We commemorated and celebrated God’s love and generosity over the past ‘Holy Week’ with the Institution of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday, the pain, suffering, woundedness & death of Jesus on Good Friday and, the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

“God is and, He loves a generous giver.”

Let’s make our commitment to the 2026 Parish CFA goal today. Let’s continue his mission & ministry today by taking care of our wounded brothers & sisters in the Diocese of Venice

Thank you and God bless your generosity.



To our ‘Snow -bird’ winter visitors, we hope and trust that we have taken care of your spiritual and pastoral needs while you were with us.

Bon Voyage & may God go with you.

3° DOMINGO de Pascua

A los discípulos de Emaus no les sorprendió que el “desconocido” pudiera citar las Escrituras. La mayoría de los hombres judíos conocían las Escrituras, pero les asombró la forma en que Jesús las explicaba. Sus corazones ardían con el fuego del *Espíritu Santo*, que les ayudó a comprender el nuevo significado de las Escrituras.

Si a veces te resulta difícil ver a Jesús en las personas o en los acontecimientos de tu vida, quizás necesites fortalecer tu fe. Como todo don, gracia de Dios, la fe hay que ejercitarla. Una manera de hacerlo es hablar con otros. Mejor aún, debate con alguien que no cree (recuerda hacerlo de forma amigable). Puede que no lo convencas de cambiar de opinión, pero tu fe crecerá a medida que aprendas a expresarla, ejercitarla. Otra manera de fortalecer tu fe es leer y orar con las Escrituras. Pregúntale a Dios Espíritu Santo qué intenta decirte a través de ellas. __Tom Schmidt

**PROGRAMA DE
EDUCACIÓN
RELIGIOSA**

Edificio MacDonald
Grados PreK – 5
Domingos 9:00 - 10:15am
Grados 6 – 12
Miércoles 6:00 - 8:00pm
Preguntas/Información
Mayra Donan
863-453-7537

ADULTOS
Edificio Juan Bosco
Domingos 9:00 - 10:15am
Preguntas/Información
Florentino Perada
863-840-4533



**¿PUEDES NOMBRA O ESCRIBE 5 FORMAS
COMO JESUS SE QUEDA CON NOSOTROS
DESPUES DE SU RESURRECCION?**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



JUAN XXIII
Edificio San Juan Bosco
Martes 7:00PM
 Para Información
 Omar 863-205-0694
 Irvin 863-853-0065

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN
“Santísima Trinidad”
Edificio MacDonald
Jueves 7:00pm
Rosario 6:30
 Para Información
Hortencia 863-448-6869
Adela 863-528-8267

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY APRIL 18
 8:00 a.m. + John Coleman.
 4:00 p.m. + Pete & Ann Prentice by Evelyn Seely.
 7:00 p.m. + Edidth & Hector Soplín Souls in Purgatory by Family.

SUNDAY APRIL 19
 8:00 a.m. + Debbie Perry by Fred Perry.
 10:30 a.m. + Faustino & Isaac Torres by Family.

MONDAY APRIL 20
 8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY APRIL 21
 8:00 a.m. Birthday – Isabel Vargas by Lugo Family.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22
 8:00 a.m. Shannon Worthington by Family.

THURSDAY APRIL 23
 8:00 a.m. + Linda Kilpatrick by Evelyn Seely.

FRIDAY APRIL 24
 8:00 a.m. + Homer Myers.
 + David Serrano by Family.

SATURDAY APRIL 25
 8:00 a.m. Victor Manuel Arreguin by Wife.
 4:00 p.m. + Mary Ellen Elizabeth Crawford & Jorge Elden Crawford by Biernot Family.
 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Bishop Frank Dewane will celebrate the Confirmation Mass at 6:30 p.m..on April 29, 2026.

FIRST COMMUNION

On May 3, 2026, at the 10:30 a.m., Mass, Fr. Ronnie will celebrate the Mass for the children who will receive their First Communion.

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	Joan Bender	Deb Perry
Martha Spung	Louise Schorsch	Donald Schorsch
Ed Carrigan	Joey Prescott	Bea Pedara
Marty Worley	Sharon Ingalls	Susan Beaudoin
Amy Slane	Jeff Babbit	Rose Brault
Waylen James	Sherry	Jerry Grinkiewicz
Kim Nuccio	Jeannie Stopa	Jim Stopa
Marie Burley	Rick Burley	Ron Maslyk
Kathy Reiser	Clay Gooch	Janice Vreeland
Joan Trace	Jan Raccine	Paul Repa
Joan Reetz	Brenda Buergi	Jackie & Steven
Waylon James Adams	Michael Thomas Adams	

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



*OLG Parish Family Picnic
 Sunday, April 19, 2026*

Noon to 3 pm

Eat from Noon to 1:30 pm

No charge, but donations happily accepted

Bring a side dish to share.

If your last name starts with A – L: side dish; M – Z: dessert

*Hot Dogs, Hamburger, Popcorn
 Chips, Ice Cream Drinks Provided*

*Outdoor games, Face painting, Corn hole,
 Pinata's, Sack races*

Bring your Chair, Tent, Umbrella.

Fire truck, Sheriff's car, Dj/ Music

*Questions: Call Judy (863) 446 – 1841,
 or, Deb: (307) 220 – 0308.*

Staff & Ministries

Administrative Assistant

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Evelyn.Barcinas@ologap.org

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linda.beman@ologap.org

Maintenance

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Mike DeRosa

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Mayra Donan
(863) 453-7537

Music Director

Gene Ryan
mee@generyan.com

Knights of Columbus

Eric Quiel
Grand Knight
863-414-5002

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



The Servant-Girl at Emmaus

(A young Arab servant girl is listening to the conversation between Jesus and his two disciples. She forms her own impressions in the poem by Denise Levertov, which raises the question, "Is the world listening to what Jesus is saying today?")

She listens, listens, holding
Her breath. Surely that voice

Is his – the one

Who had looked at her, once, across the crowd,

As no one ever had looked?

Had seen her? Had spoken as if to her?

Surely those hands were his,

Taking the platter of bread from hers just now?

Hands he'd laid on the dying and made them well?

Surely that face --?

The man they'd crucified for sedition and blasphemy.

The man whose body disappeared from its tomb.

The man it was rumored now some women had seen

This morning, alive?

Those who had brought this stranger home to their table

Don't recognize yet with whom they sit.

But she, in the kitchen, absently touching

The wine jug she's to take in,

A young Black servant intently listening,

Swings round and sees

The light around him

And is sure.