

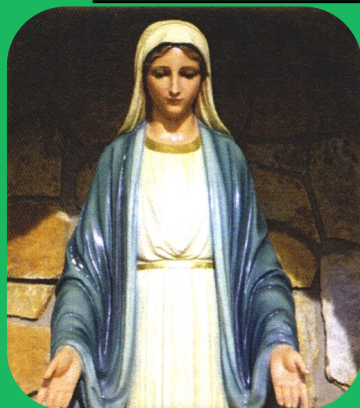
Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



19th Sunday Ordinary Time

August 9, 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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Rubens (1612-17) - The Assumption of the Virgin
Saturday, August 15, **Mass 8:00 A.M.** It is not a Holy Day of Obligation.



***God speaks loudest
when we are quietest***

In a reading from the Book of Kings (1 Kings 19: 9, 11–13), the prophet Elijah was instructed by the Lord to go to the outside of a cave and ***“the Lord will be passing by.”***

Elijah did as he was told by the Lord. First, there was a strong wind – ***“but the Lord was not in the wind.”***

After the wind there was an earthquake – ***“but the Lord was not in the earthquake.”*** After the earthquake there was a fire – ***“but the Lord was not in the fire.”*** After the fire there was ***“a tiny whispering sound.”*** When he heard this, ***“Elijah hid his face in his cloak.”*** **Why?** Because as Moses feared when he went up on Mt. Sinai to meet the Lord, he did not want to see the face of the Lord; anyone who would see the face of the Lord would die. So, Elijah hid his face.

It is very difficult to experience the Lord in contemporary culture. Why? Because we live in such a **noisy culture**. From the moment we get out of bed in the morning ‘till we close our eyes in bed at night, we are being ‘hanged, drawn and quartered’ by a multiplicity of **talking heads** through the social media. It is almost as if we cannot speak to one another except via **iPhone, iPad or iPod**. It is now listed in mental health circles as **the latest “addiction.”**

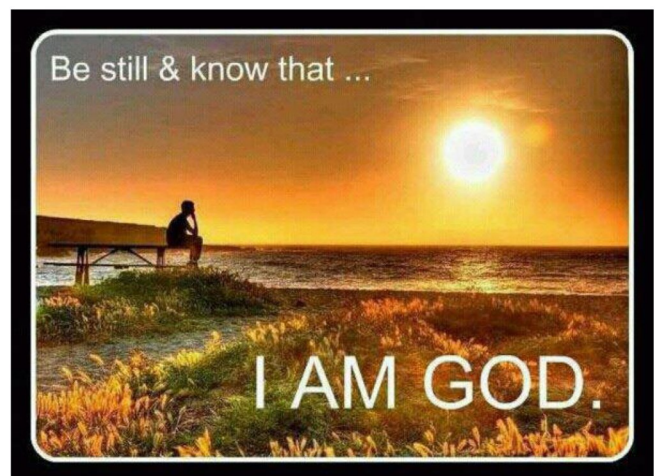
Yet, today’s reading from the Book of Kings reminds us – the Lord himself speaking to the prophet Elijah – that **the Lord is not found in the noisy world** – “The strong and heavy wind,” “the devastating earthquake,” the all-consuming “fire.” **He’s found in the “tiny whispering sound.”**

Elijah went out into the desert to the mountains, where he entered a cave, to find the kind of silence where he could encounter the Lord. If he was to be a “spokesperson for the Lord” – a prophet – he had to be able to encounter the Lord and to hear the Lord. **In the words of Psalm 42, “Be still and know that I am God.”**

If young people are to hear ***“the Voice of the Lord”*** they will need to create ***‘quiet space’*** for Him.

Do you want to “hear the Lord?”

Enroll your children in the School of Religion, which begins Wednesday, September 2 for grades 7-12 and, Sunday, September 6, for grades pre-k 4 – 6. Contact Mayra Donan at (863) 453-7537 or, drop by the office, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 4: 30 p.m. Cost: July registration, \$30 for 1 child, \$40 per family. August, September Registration: \$40 per child, \$60 per family.





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: 6:30 – 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.



The Feast of the Assumption, August 15th: Is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Why? It falls on Saturday this year.

Mary was preserved free from original sin by **a singular privilege of God**, in anticipation of the fact that **she was to become the mother of God's son** who became man in the womb of the Blessed virgin.

It is our belief Mary remained sinless throughout her life. If death is one of the consequences of sin, it is appropriate that someone who was born & remained sinless throughout her life, should be the first to share in the victory of her Son, Jesus, over sin and death, by his passion, death and resurrection. This is what we celebrate today.

We also express our belief in the resurrection in the creed: ***"I believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."***

Because of Mary, and because of her cooperation with the mystery of God's plan for the salvation of the world, we also have the optimism to hope to share in the resurrection of the body at the end of the world in virtue of Mary's "Yes" to the mystery of God's plan for the salvation of the world.

The formal teaching or dogma of the Catholic Church on the Assumption of Our lady, body and soul, into heaven, was defined in August 1950, by Pope Pius XII.

What was significant, if anything, about that date?

We had just experienced **two devastating world wars** in the previous 50 years. We had just experienced the **Holocaust of 6 million Jews in concentration camps**. The **atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki** killing hundreds of thousands of innocent people.

And, we were just **beginning the cold war between the mightiest nations in the world**.

Contrasted with the pessimism of the time, this dogma, declared in 1950, offered the world, hope that the destiny of the human race is more than war, destruction and devastation.

It was also just about this time – 1950 – that the cult of the body and the glories of sexuality were beginning to take hold of society. With the glorification of the body and the idolization of sex, the leaders of the Church worried that this would lead to a loss of respect for marriage and for family values. **In contrast, the dogma emphasizes the dignity and beauty of the human body as the dwelling place and tabernacle of the Holy Spirit.**

Before he died on the cross, one of the last things Jesus did was to entrust his mother to us, when he uttered his dying words, ***"Behold your mother."*** Mary's concern would be the concern of her son, the salvation of all people. **We express that in the second half of the "Hail Mary:"**

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Why do we want Mary to intercede for us at the ***"Hour of death?"*** She was present at **the death of Joseph**, her husband, **and, Jesus**, beautifully captured by Michelangelo in his, ***"The Pieta."***

The Feast, normally a Holy Day of Obligation, is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year because the Feast falls on Saturday. There is an 8 A.M. Mass to Honor Mary on Saturday.



Creer en la fe no es una progresión constante. Por cada dos pasos que tomemos adelante, podemos dar un paso atrás. Recibimos el perdón de Dios en el sacramento de la reconciliación y nos alegramos por la misericordia amorosa de Dios, pero luego volvemos a caer en el pecado. Pedimos la ayuda de Dios en la oración y cuando nos responde crece la fe en Dios. Pero luego nos enfermamos o chocamos el carro y pensamos que Dios nos ha abandonado.

Es natural dudar de Dios en tiempos de angustia, pero cuando nos convertimos en seguidores de Cristo elegimos vivir de forma sobrenatural. Como Pedro, tenemos que fijar la atención en el Señor. Mientras Pedro miraba a Jesús, podía caminar sobre el agua. Solo cuando se puso a concentrar en el viento, se asustó y comenzó a hundirse.

Igual, nosotros podemos dejar de enfocarnos en el Señor. Vemos a un ser querido que está muy enfermo. Cometemos un error grave que nos mete en problemas. Perdemos el trabajo y estamos sin posibilidades de otro. Nos asustan las noticias de actividad terrorista. Estas cosas parecen más reales que la fe en un Dios invisible. En estos momentos debemos acordarnos de que la fe verdadera nos permite creer cuando no parece tener sentido. La fe nos dice que, aunque aparentemente es invisible, Dios es más real que cualquier cosa que podamos ver. —Tom Schmidt



EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Grados K-12 Y Post Confirmación

La Oficina está abierta Lunes - Viernes de 9am-4:30pm. El costo es de \$40 por estudiante y \$65 por familia. Para más información llamar Mayra Doñan 863-453-7537.

Adultos / OCIA

(Orden de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos)
Es el proceso de formación y preparación en la Iglesia Católica para adultos que desean recibir los sacramentos del Bautismo, la Confirmación o la Eucaristía. Domingos de 9:00 -10:00am comenzando Septiembre 6. Para más información llamar Florentino Perada (863) 840-4533 o la oficina.

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN "SANTISIMA TRINIDAD"

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

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 8

4:00 p.m. + Michael Rand by Family.
7:00 p.m. + Juanito Ocasio Melendez
by Grandchildren Diana &
Javier.

SUNDAY AUGUST 9

8:00 a.m. + Lynne Myers by Elrie
Myers.
10:30 a.m. + Cielo Gura by Fe
Schiano.

MONDAY AUGUST 10

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY AUGUST 11

8:00 a.m. + Leyama Lukose - Eternal
Peace by Sal & Mina.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12

8:00 a.m. + Wally Johnson by Susan
Johnson.

THURSDAY AUGUST 13

8:00 a.m. + William & Virginia
Cook by Evelyn Seely.

FRIDAY AUGUST 14

8:00 a.m. + Souls of Purgatory – Rosa
& Samuel Soplin by Family.

SATURDAY AUGUST 15

4:00 p.m. + Michael Rand by Family.
7:00 p.m. Nelly Santara by Tata
Batista.



FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

The Flower
Arrangement this
week is dedicated for

the repose of the soul of
Felicisimo Semo by the Torres
Family.

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	eannie 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	
Earl Hershberger	Jennifer Vohs	Terry O'Leary
Coty Quillman		

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 ele-
ments of nature obey your
command. We humbly be-
seech you to keep us safe
from all dangers and calm
the storms that may threat-
en us. May we be secure
in your loving protection
and serve you always with
grateful hearts. We ask
this through our Lord, Je-
sus Christ, your Son, who
lives and reigns with you
forever. Amen.

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Debora Augusta
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OCIA Director

Travis & Dawn Crosson
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Parish Council

President

Betty Anne Lee
863-873-7176



It is I; Do not be afraid

The boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he [Jesus] came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. “*It is a ghost,*” they said, and cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, “*Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid*” (Today’s Gospel).

The boat is an image of the Church. The center or main aisle of the Church is called the Nave – from the Latin word for ship, *Navis*. The image of the boat in the storm is an image of what the Church is going through today. Jesus assures us, “*It is I; do not be afraid.*” He is with us in the Church (*Boat*) in the storm.