

# Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

## 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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*"Prepare the way of the Lord... Repent."*

**Mon, Dec 8, Feast, Immaculate Conception – Mass: 8 & 10:30 AM**

**Friday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe – Mass: 6 P.M.**





### *“Prepare the way of the Lord... Repent”*

John the Baptist sets the tone for the “Coming of Jesus” two thousand years ago with the words in today’s Gospel, *“Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* John was not sure what to expect. He came from a school of prophecy which was direct and blunt, somewhat in the mode of Elijah & Jeremiah. We see something of this in today’s Gospel when he refers to the Scribes and Pharisees approaching for baptism as *“you brood of vipers.”* Retribution, fire and brimstone, was very much the language of the Baptist as he spoke of the Messiah as having the *“winnowing fan in his hand... and the chaff he will burn in a fire that would never go out”* (Lk 3: 17).

The kingdom that Jesus was inaugurating was not the kingdom proclaimed by John. *“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”* Fire transforms everything in its path. **The prophet Isaiah**, in his vision of the kingdom, had described it, not in the language of condemnation and retribution, but **in the language of liberation and compassion!** *“Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame will leap like the deer and the tongue of the dumb will sing for joy”* (Isaiah 35: 5). This was the kingdom being inaugurated and realized in Christ. **Jesus quoted Isaiah verbatim in Luke’s Gospel (Lk 4), and then concluded, “Today, this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”** He came to “forgive,” “heal,” and **not to “condemn” the sinner.** He does the same in the Sacrament of Penance, when he

stretches out his hand in forgiveness and healing, *“Father, forgive them...”*

Let us take the words of John the Baptist to heart as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus: **“Prepare the way of the Lord.... Repent.”**

**Confessions: 8:30 a.m., 3:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.** (English & Spanish) **Saturday**, or, upon request.

**Advent Communal Penance Services will be in area parishes on the following dates:**

**St. Paul, Arcadia, Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 P.M.**

**Our Lady of Grace, Avon Park, Tuesday, December 16, 6:30 P.M.**

**St Michael, Wauchula, Wednesday, December 17, 6:00 P.M.**

**St Catherine, Sebring, Thursday, December 18, 6:00 P.M.**





Salvador Dalí, - Discovery of America

### Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Monday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Mass – 8 & 10:30 AM

All of the early Catholic foundations in the U.S. were placed under the patronage of Mary. **The first Cathedral** built in the United States was built in Baltimore and was named after Our Lady, namely, the **Cathedral of the Assumption**. **The first seminary** to train future native clergy was established in Baltimore, also, and was named **St. Mary's Seminary**. One of the **first Catholic Universities** founded by the French Holy Cross Fathers in the United States was **Notre Dame University** in South Bend, Indiana, and **St. Mary's** for girls. **The National Shrine**, in Washington D.C., is named to honor Mary, **the Basilica of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception**.

**The feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception is our Patronal Feast.** This year, it falls on Monday, December 8. **It is a Holy Day of Obligation.**

#### The Mass schedule

**Monday, 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.**



### Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Festival Mass, 6 p.m. Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

We celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on **Friday, December 12**. **Saint Pope John Paul II** declared that Our Lady of Guadalupe was the **patroness of the continent of the Americas**. Our Lady appeared to a 52-year-old migrant worker, **Juan Diego** at Tepeyac, on his way to Mass in Mexico City in 1531. She asked him to have the bishop build a church in her honor. The bishop asked Juan Diego to ask the Lady for a sign. In was the middle of winter, December 12, when the Lady provided Juan Diego with a sign for the bishop. She picked some beautiful roses and had Juan Diego wrap them in his tilma. When he opened his tilma for the bishop, the roses fell to the floor. There was a wonderful impression of Our Lady on the tilma in the form of an indigenous woman. This apparition led to the conversion of Mexico almost overnight.

**Las Mananitas** celebrated, Monday, at 5 a.m., December 12, in Church.

**Festival Mass, Friday, Dec 12, at 6 p.m.,** will be celebrated in Church. There will be a celebration after Mass on Church grounds





**Feast of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception**  
**Mass Schedule: Monday – 8 & 10:30 A.M.**  
**Patroness of the US - a Holy Day of Obligation.**



**Annual Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, Saturday, Sunday, December 7th**

For most of their lives, elderly religious, men & women, have **worked tirelessly for 50, 60, 70 years in active ministry**, in Education, Pastoral Care, Hospital and nursing home care, and **among the poor and homeless**, serving the neediest among us, often for minimal pay. Because of the shortage in vocations, there are very few to care for them now that they are well into retirement years. **Retirement Fund Collection for Religious will be held the weekend of December 7<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Please be generous.**



**Regular Members of OLG Ladies Guild will travel by Bus to the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, Orlando, Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**The Bus will depart the Church parking lot at 10 A.M.** The roundtrip by bus is free of charge to regular members of the Ladies Guild. You must register for this trip by contacting **Debbie Augusta**, President of the Ladies Guild – (863) 991-1020. **30 of the 50 seats have been booked to date.**



**OLG Ladies Guild Christmas Luncheon, Grogan Center at 1:00 P.M., Wed, Dec 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Members may gather at 12 noon.**

**All members invited & encouraged to attend.**

**Members must register: Call Debbie Augusta (863) 991 - 1020**





En esta era moderna, nuestras vidas son aceleradas y llenas de demasiada estimulación. Durante las Navidades, vamos de fiestas a compras, a obras de teatro y conciertos escolares, alimentándonos con galletas y café. Nuestros cuerpos están en movimiento, pero no necesariamente alertas ni despiertos ante el milagro del Adviento: Cristo viene.

La invitación a permanecer despiertos nos invita a ser conscientes de la virtud de la esperanza, del milagro de la vida y del prodigioso amor que nuestro Dios nos tiene al elegir encarnarse. Mantengámonos despiertos en esta época para estar atentos a los detalles que rodean el nacimiento de Jesús y prepararnos para su regreso en gloria. \_\_\_ Elizabeth Tomlin



¿Estamos preparando el camino del Señor? ¿Cómo? Mientras preparamos para las fiestas navideñas y todos los regalos, a veces nos olvidamos para qué nos estamos preparando realmente. Algo que ayuda es recordar incluir el **Sacramento de la Reconciliación** para arrepentirme de mis pecados y estar plenamente presente para celebrar el cumpleaños de Jesús. También podemos orar por quienes no son cristianos practicantes, para que esta Navidad les ayude a ver el bien que Dios puede hacer en cada una de nuestras vidas. \_\_\_ Ben Hooper



**PROGRAMA DE EDUCACION RELIGIOSA**

**Invita a una Representación Navideña**

Miércoles Diciembre 10 a las 6:30

Salón Parroquial Grogan

Mayra Donan (863) 453-7537



**Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento** **Martes Diciembre 16 6:30 PM**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 6

8:00 a.m. For Our Parish Family.  
4:00 p.m. Deb Grant by Randy Rhodes.  
7:00 p.m. + Alfredo Morfin by Family.

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 7

8:00 a.m. + Darlene McNeal by Judy Berlin.  
+ Myers Family by Elrie Myers.  
10:30 a.m. + Faride Sarmiento by Family.

4:00 p.m. English Mass.

7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass.

### MONDAY DECEMBER 8

8:00 a.m. English Mass.  
10:30 a.m. For Our Parish Family.

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 9

8:00 a.m. Warren McCarthy by Paul & Justine Devlin.

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10

8:00 a.m. Aramis Gladys Tejon by Family.

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 11

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

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 12

8:00 a.m. Bert Grant by Randy Rhodes.

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 13

8:00 a.m. + John Coleman.  
4:00 p.m. + Lenny Lemka by Wife.  
7:00 p.m. + Cruz Alvarez by Family.

## 2026 MISSALS

The 2026 Missals are available in the Parish Office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Missals are \$5.00 each.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Bosco Building.

## FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Joan Morgan	Candida Reyes	Kathy Furtado
Rosa Arosemena	Andres Clavijo	Jade Jackson
Martha Clavijo	Harold Raccine	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
Michael Rand	Bea Pedara	Marty Worley
Sharon Ingalls	Gary Ingalls	Dennis Hood
Susan Beaudoin	Amy Slane	Jeff Babbitt
Rose Brault	Waylen James	Raffael Aversa
Jerry Grinkiewicz	Kim Nuccio	Sherry
Jeannie Stopa	Jim Stopa	Marie Burley
Rick Burley	Ron Maslyk	Kathy Reisert
Clay Gooch	Janice Vreeland	

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

## GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The Highlands County Genealogical Society will meet on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. in the Religious Education Building. All are welcome to learn about their family tree.

## WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING

The Women's Guild will meet on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at Noon for social hour with meeting starting at 1:00 p.m.

## Parish Info Update:

NAME:	_____
ADDRESS:	_____
CITY &	_____
ZIP:	_____
TELEPHONE:	_____
EMAIL ADDRESS:	_____
( ) New registration	
( ) New Address/Email	
( ) Need Envelopes	
( ) Other:	_____





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## Staff & Ministries

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### Administrative Assistant

Evelyn Barcinas  
Evelyn.Barcinas@ologap.org

### Bookkeeper

Linda Beman  
linda.beman@ologap.org

### Maintenance

Maria Ramirez  
Mike DeRosa

### Religious Education

Director  
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

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## Parish Council

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### President

Betty Anne Lee  
863-873-7176



## *OLG School of Religion Children's Christmas Pageant*

*When?*

*Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>*

*Where?*

*Grogan Center*

*Time*

*6:00 – 8:00 P.M.*

*Christmas is essentially about a child, the Child Jesus. Children are at the heart of what Christmas is about. The Children of the School of Religion will present their Christmas Pageant, re-enacting the central meaning of Christmas, on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., in the Grogan Center.*

*Parishioners are invited & welcome.*



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