

Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



11th Sunday Ordinary Time

June 14 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

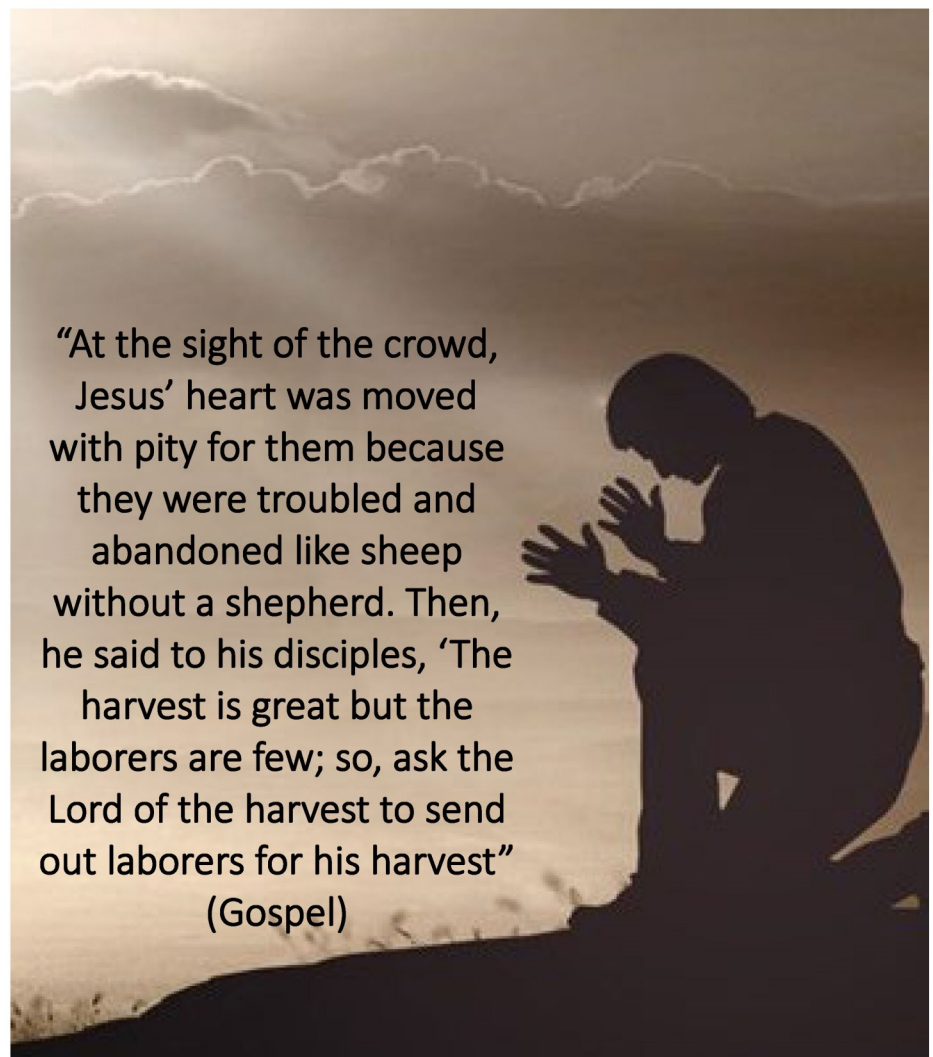
Daily Mass

Tuesday-Friday
8 AM

First Friday

Mass and Holy Hour
8 AM

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www.ologap.org



“At the sight of the crowd,
Jesus’ heart was moved
with pity for them because
they were troubled and
abandoned like sheep
without a shepherd. Then,
he said to his disciples, ‘The
harvest is great but the
laborers are few; so, ask the
Lord of the harvest to send
out laborers for his harvest”
(Gospel)

How do I know if Jesus is calling me?

“Without cost you have received;
without cost you are to give.” (Mt 10:8).

St. Mother Teresa: “Pray... to have trust.”



El Greco's painting of St. Luke's painting of Mother & child.

they would learn the humility of the Most Blessed Virgin,” – “Who trusted that the Lord’s word in her would be fulfilled.”

So, **Mary** put her whole trust in the Word that came to her from heaven, and surrendered. This act of surrender is something we find hard to do. All the more striking, therefore, is the following brief observation made by **Meister Eckhart**, one of the most famous catholic mystics and intellectuals of the Middle Ages: *“One Hail Mary said when a man has abandoned himself is more profitable than to read the psalms a thousand times over.”*

Illuminating also in this context is the account of a visit made to Calcutta by an American priest several years ago. In part, his visit was undertaken with the hope of meeting Mother Teresa. But he also had a big decision to make. So, in a sense, it was his moment of ‘annunciation.’ The first thing he did in Calcutta was to make a long retreat. And, then, when it was over, he went to see **Mother Teresa**. He asked her to pray for him. *‘What do you want me to pray for?’* She asked. *‘For clarity of mind,’* he replied. *‘No, I won’t!’* she answered – a reply which must have completely astonished him. *‘I will pray,’* she said, *‘that you have trust.’* In the words of the **Lebanese poet, Gibran**, God is the ‘**Archer**’ whose fingers release and point the **Arrow**, the child, from **the Bow**, the support system, the parents and family, toward its ‘**Target**’ in life. In today’s Gospel, Jesus says to his disciples, *“The harvest is great but the laborers are few; so, ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”*

How do I know if Jesus is calling me?

Look to Mary; listen to Mother Teresa – pray “to have trust.”

What kind of clarity is necessary for a Vocation Decision?

Mother Teresa - “Pray... to have trust.”

To answer that question, we turn to Mary’s response to the will of God for her at the **Annunciation**. When the angel first announced the news of the birth of Jesus, Mary first put a question to the angel: *“How can this be?”* She was not demanding a full rational explanation before she gave her momentous *“Yes.”*

Reflecting on Mary’s act of surrender at the Annunciation, **St. Teresa of Avila writes:** *[Mary] “did not act as do some learned men... for they want to be so rational about things and so precise in their understanding that it doesn’t seem anyone else but they with their learning can understand the grandeurs of God. If only*



St. Paul Parish, Arcadia, Jun 7 – 12,

**St. Michael Parish, Wauchula,
June 14-19,**

July 5-10

St. James Parish, Lake Placid

St. Catherine Parish, Sebring

Our Lady of Grace Parish, Avon Park

College-age young adults serve as **Totus Tuus Missionaries for the 2026 Parish evangelization and catechesis Summer Program.** This role involves traveling in teams to parishes throughout the Diocese, leading catechetical sessions for children and youth. Responsibilities include teaching the Catholic Faith using the Totus



Tuus curriculum, facilitating activities, including skits and songs, working collaboratively, teaching about the Mass, leading in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and facilitating discussion groups.

For information, contact Mayra Donan, Director of Religious Education at (863) 453-7537, or, drop by Religious Education Office.



Pope Leo XIV's Encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*

“The Church in the United States welcomes the publication of **Pope Leo XIV**’s first encyclical letter, *Magnifica Humanitas*. It is a powerful reminder that no technology can replace a child of God, and all technology should be placed at the service of helping humanity thrive.

“As his predecessor **Pope Leo XIII** addressed the challenges of the **Industrial Revolution** in *Rerum Novarum – New Things* – 135 years ago, today, **Pope Leo XIV** shines the light of the Gospel and the tradition of the Church on the new opportunities and challenges posed by the rise of **Artificial Intelligence**. The Pope calls us to never lose sight of **the inherent dignity of all human life** and the moral imperative for technology to support peace and the common good rather than the limited interest of a few.

Why is it called *Magnifica Humanitas*?

The title is Latin for “**magnificent humanity**.” It points to the document’s teaching that **no machine can replace the God-given magnificence of the human person**. Pope Leo XIV writes: “We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace” (MH 15).

What is the encyclical’s most important message about AI?

The encyclical acknowledges familiar **concerns about AI, including “job insecurity and inequality”** (MH 151), “**manipulation of information or violations of privacy**” (MH 102), “**ideological bias**” (MH 102), “**autonomous weapons systems**” (MH 197), and “**a futuristic vision of an ‘enhanced human being’**” (MH 115).

But Pope Leo XIV identifies a deeper danger: that human beings may begin to see themselves and others as projects “to be optimized” (MH 112).

The encyclical teaches that what seems to be **human “limits,”** such as “**incapacity, illness, old age, suffering, [and] vulnerability,**” must not be seen simply as “**a defect to be corrected.**” Rather, the magnificence of humanity is that **we flourish “not despite [our] limitations, but often through them”** (MH 118).

In those moments, we can “**discover a new wisdom, tangibly experience the closeness of others and encounter the presence of the Lord**” (MH 119). Therefore, AI should serve the common good of humanity not by tempting us to escape human limitation through optimization, but by supporting a life of “openness and communion” (MH 231).

What are some practical takeaways from this encyclical? Pope Leo XIV warns that “**when efficiency becomes the ultimate measure of value, human beings are tempted to see themselves as a project to be optimized rather than as persons called to relationship and communion**”

This means asking practical questions about AI-assisted technology in ordinary daily life:

- Does it help me remain faithful to the truth, despite the most appealing content? (MH 237)
- Does it help educate me and allow me to educate others? (MH 238)
- Does it help me cultivate genuine closeness in relationships and cherish places and times where physical presence remains crucial? (MH 239)
- Does it help me participate in the promotion of justice and peace? (MH 240)

The encyclical is not a call to reject AI. It is a call to guide our development and use of AI toward the magnificence of humanity. (MH 4).



Estamos libres del pecado y de la muerte. ¿Y eso no es suficiente?

Jesús nos demuestra que Dios puede hacer aún más. Cuando vio a las multitudes en el evangelio de hoy, se compadeció de ellas porque eran “como ovejas sin pastor”. Así que Jesús responde de dos formas.

Primero, enseña a sus discípulos a rogar por más líderes. No son elegidos por voto popular. Son “elegidos” o llamados por Dios para servir. Podemos rezar por todos los que tienen un papel de liderazgo, para que estén llenos de sabiduría y de fortaleza. Jesús también nos enseña a rogar por las vocaciones a la vida religiosa.

Segundo, Jesús envía a los doce apóstoles a proclamar el Reino y curar enfermedades. Nos enseña que la acción debe ir en conjunto con la oración. Esto puede ser ofrecer nuestra ayuda a los líderes parroquiales, cumplir un término en el consejo parroquial o animar a nuestros hijos a considerar una vocación religiosa.

Dios nos regala estos dones sin costo. Simplemente nos pide que transmitamos esa buena nueva de la salvación. __Tom Schmidt

Retomamos el Tiempo Ordinario

El Tiempo Ordinario es un total de 33 ó 34 semanas comenzando el lunes después de la Epifanía y dura hasta el martes anterior al Miércoles de Ceniza y Pascua. Se interrumpe hasta después de Pentecostés y sigue hasta vísperas del primer domingo de Adviento. No es un tiempo menos importante para la Iglesia que los tiempos fuertes. Es como un respiro en medio de los tiempos fuertes de la Iglesia para reflexionar y poner en práctica lo que se ha celebrado anteriormente.

Llamamiento de la Fe Católica

"Díganles que
hagan el bien... que sean
generosos, dispuestos a compartir"
(1 Timoteo 6:18)



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2
6

Meta de la Parroquia - \$132,000
Recibido hasta la fecha - \$73,473.32
Saldo restante - \$58,526.68

Hay 1,283 familias registradas en la Parroquia. Solo el 9.2% de los feligreses han hecho su donación. ¿Serás tú el próximo en responder?

Puede hacer su donación en efectivo, cheque, o tarjeta de crédito una sola vez o en plazos. Pregunta a cualquier ujier por un sobre o llamar la oficina. ¡Dios bendiga sus finanzas!

Educación Religiosa
Edificio MacDonald
Grados K-12

La Oficina de Educación Religiosa está abierta lunes a viernes de 9am-5pm para inscripciones para el año 2026-2027. También para cualquier pregunta relacionada con la Catequesis de niños, jóvenes y adultos. Se ofrece Formación para Jóvenes que han hecho su Confirmación. Para información llamar Mayra Doñan 863-453-7537.

GRUPO JUAN XXIII

¡Con Cristo Todo! ¡Sin Cristo nada!

Se reúne los Martes a las 6:30 PM en el salón San Juan Bosco. Para más información llamar Omar 863-205-0694 o Elvin 863-528-8267.

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN

"Santísima Trinidad"

¡Ven Espíritu Santo!

Se reúne los jueves en el Edificio MacDonald (entrada por atrás) a las 7:00PM. Rosario a las 6:30. ¡Todos Bienvenidos! Para información llamar 863-448-6869 o 863-528-8267.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY JUNE 13

4:00 p.m. + Walter, Mary & Jenny
Drew by Evelyn Seely.

7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass.

SUNDAY JUNE 14

8:00 a.m. + Ryan Myers by Elrie
Myers.

10:30 a.m. + Stanley Repa, Jr., by Scott
& Andy Maxon.

MONDAY JUNE 15

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY JUNE 16

8:00 a.m. + Ann Marie Sabga by Ayoub
Sabga.
95th Birthday – Venius Sabga
by Ayoub Sabga.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17

8:00 a.m. Jerry Grinkiewicz for Health
by JoMarie Grinkiewicz.

THURSDAY JUNE 18

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

FRIDAY JUNE 19

8:00 a.m. + Texin Vellapally for Eternal
Peace by Sal & Mina.

SATURDAY JUNE 20

4:00 p.m. + Raffaele Aversa by Tom &
Connie.

7:00 p.m. + Tito Batista by Tata Batista.

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 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		Earl Hershberger
Jennifer Vohs		

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.

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President

Betty Anne Lee
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A significant surge in adult converts and a visible return of young adults to the church

Catholic dioceses across the United States are reporting a **significant surge in adult converts and a visible return of young adults** to the church, particularly through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (**OCIA**).

The Evidence of Growth:

- Recent data across numerous dioceses highlights record-breaking numbers of new entries into the Church, heavily driven by Millennials and Gen Z:
- **Archdiocese of Detroit:** Welcomed 1,428 new Catholics during Easter, marking its highest number of converts in 21 years.
- **Archdiocese of Newark:** Reported a 30% year-over-year increase in individuals preparing to join the Church.
- **Diocese of Des Moines:** Experienced a sharp 51% jump in converts compared to the previous year.
- **Archdiocese of Los Angeles:** Welcomed over 5,500 new Catholics into the faith.
- **National Trends:** Research from groups like the Barna Group suggests that **Gen Z and Millennial** churchgoers have become highly frequent in-person attendees, with some data showing **young adult church attendance nearly doubling since 2020**.

Key Drivers Behind the Surge:

- Church leaders like Bishop Robert Barron and pastoral experts attribute this momentum to several unique cultural and spiritual shifts among young adults:
- **Hunger for Truth and Tradition:** Many young people are explicitly seeking out the 2,000-year history, ancient traditions, and liturgical reverence of Catholicism as an anchor in a volatile modern culture.
- **The "Leo Effect":** Widespread media coverage notes increased engagement and curiosity following the election of Pope Leo XIV, the first pontiff originally from the United States.
- **Online Catholic Influencers:** High-quality digital content, from the [Ascension Presents YouTube Channel](#) to popular Catholic podcasts, has served as an accessible entryway for those asking deep questions about faith.
- **Desire for Real Community:** Amid an epidemic of loneliness and social atomization worsened by social media, young adults are turning to local parish groups and campus ministries for tangible, real-world connection.