

*Our Lady of*

*Grace*  
Catholic Parish



595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757

5th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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**

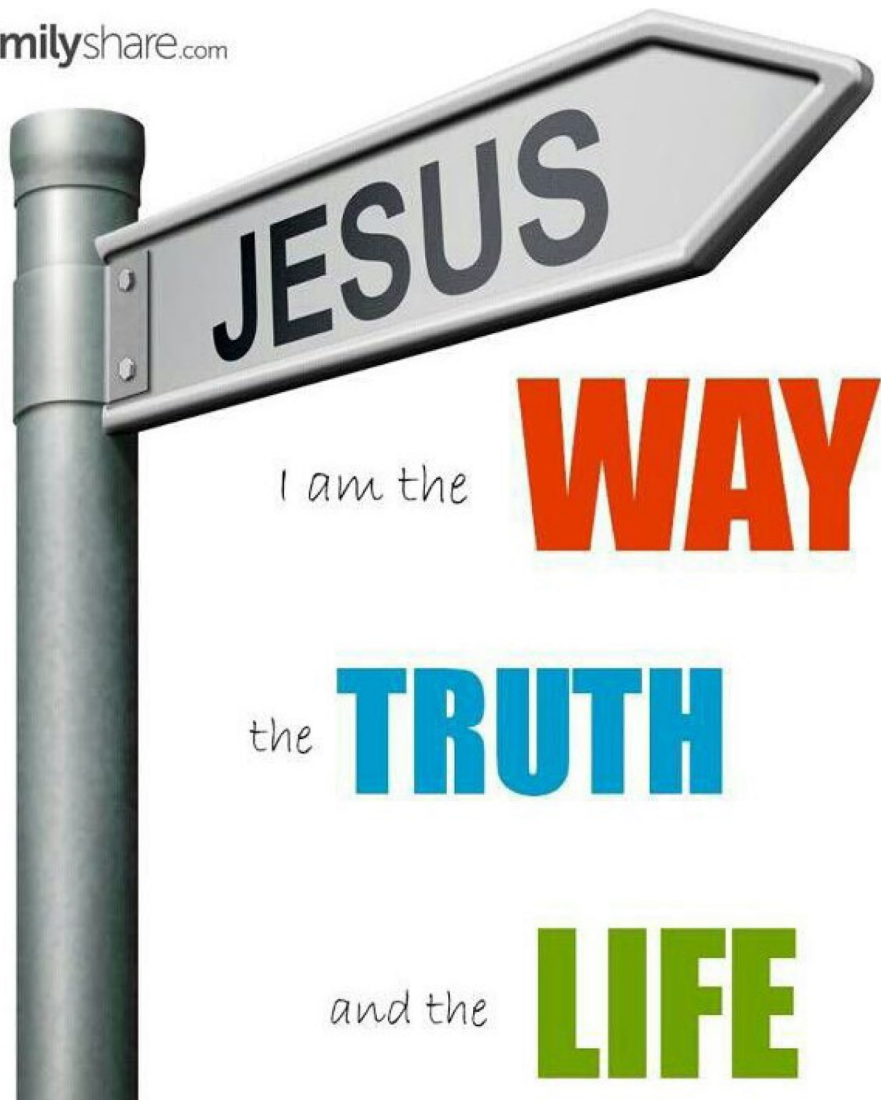
Tuesday-Friday  
8 AM

**First Friday**

Mass and Holy Hour  
8 AM

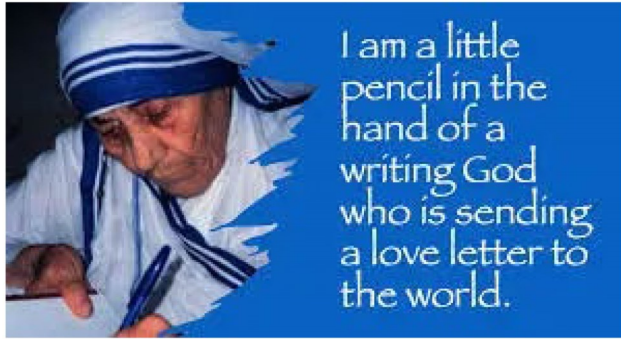
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[www.ologap.org](http://www.ologap.org)

familyshare.com



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

God's Special Blessings 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Children



### ‘A Pencil in the hand of God’

*“Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do and will do greater works than these...”*

**Fr. Gallagher**, a Jesuit priest in Rome, was a gifted spiritual author and director. **Mother (Saint) Teresa of Calcutta** asked him if he

would give her Sisters of Charity in Calcutta their annual retreat. He agreed.

**On arriving in Calcutta**, he was tired. So, **he decided to go for a walk**. As he pushed his way through the over-crowded streets, **he tripped over a young boy**, who was 8 – 10 years old. He was just skin & bones. This unnerved Fr, Gallagher: he decided to return to his Jesuit residence. **It was dinner time**. Dinner that evening consisted of some simple fare, like sandwiches. Father Gallagher, still suffering from jet lag and, still somewhat unnerved by the incident with the young boy, **did not feel like eating**. **He put the sandwiches in a bag and went in search of the boy** he tripped over – an undertaking akin to looking for a needle in a haystack of people.

As fate or good fortune would have it, **he spotted the boy in the crowded street**. The boy looked nervously at him. **Father handed him the bag of sandwiches**. The boy yanked the bag from his hand and, **quickly vacuumed the sandwiches down** &, quickly took off without speaking a word. **Fr. Gallagher, becoming more agitated** by the massive hunger he saw all around him in the streets of Calcutta, decided to return to his Jesuit residence and, **decided to go to the chapel**.

**On entering the chapel**, he found it impossible to pray. His increasing agitation developed to a point that he **exploded in anger at God**, crying out *“I have been a priest for twenty-five years and I have always told people that you are a loving God. If you are such a loving God, why don’t you take care of these poor innocent children who live in the streets in abject poverty?”*

Having exploded, **he began to calm down** a little. He just sat there in silence. Then, almost as if in a **silent stream of consciousness**, a voice came to him and said, *“But Michael, I have done something about these poor, famine stricken, and innocent young children... I created you.”*

That’s exactly what Jesus responds to **his disciples**, Thomas & Phillip, who were **“troubled”** now that Jesus was about to leave them. He said to them, *“Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do & will do greater works than these.”* Jesus continues his **“works”** through you & me. If, as **St. Teresa of Calcutta** says, *I am a “pencil in the hand of God,”* what is my life’s message?

**Paul Gilbert helps us answer that question:**

**You're writing a Gospel, a chapter each day,  
By the deeds that you do, by the words that you say;  
People read what you write, whether faithless or true;  
Say, what is the Gospel According to you?**

**Question: What message does God want to “write” with your life as his ‘pencil’?**



*“I do not call you servants any longer... I call you friends “(John 15:15).*

May you always feel as close to Jesus as you do today. May you always count on him to gently guide you on your way .... May you always trust in God to answer every single prayer. May you always feel him blessing you with tender, loving care.

**Congratulations and God’s Choicest Blessings  
1st Communion Children**

**Ella Raghoo  
Tatiana O’Hora  
Parker Heston  
Yomar Gomez  
Juliana Melendez  
Emily DeAnda  
Isidro DeAnda  
Alvaro Ibarra  
Sofia Lucatero  
Montserrat Rodriguez  
Dexter Boersma  
Alexandra Gomez  
Adrian Melendez  
Yuliana Perez  
Cassandra Santiago  
Ashley Fuentes  
Andy Garcia  
Luke Melendez  
Alexander Ortiz  
Giovanny Velasquez  
Connor & Caden Sevigny  
Yoel Ponce**

Lord Jesus,

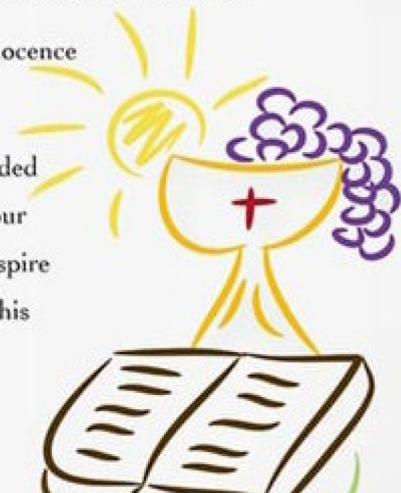
Bless the children coming forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

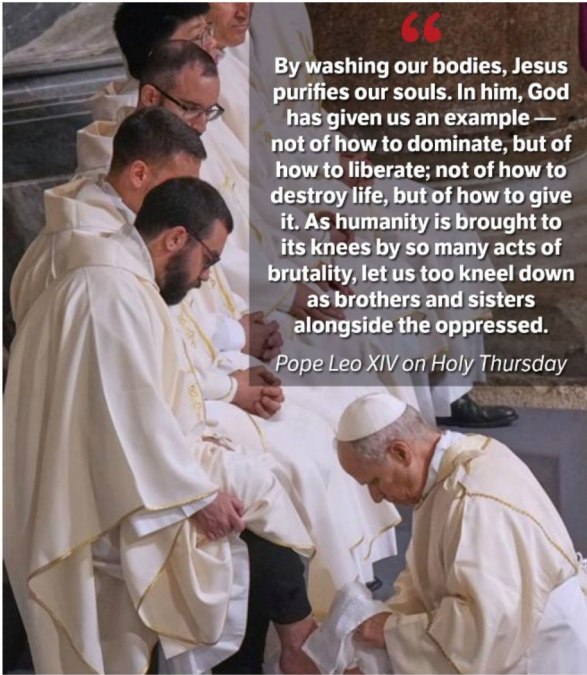
May this day be an initial step into a life-long love of the Eucharist.

Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship.

Thank you for their innocence and goodness.

May their hands, extended in anticipation of your Body and Blood, inspire all of us to cherish this sacred sacrament.





“  
By washing our bodies, Jesus purifies our souls. In him, God has given us an example — not of how to dominate, but of how to liberate; not of how to destroy life, but of how to give it. As humanity is brought to its knees by so many acts of brutality, let us too kneel down as brothers and sisters alongside the oppressed.  
Pope Leo XIV on Holy Thursday

**Pope Leo XIV washes the feet of 12 priests on Holy Thursday as Jesus did at the Last Supper.**



**Fr Ronnie, assisted by the Crossan's, baptizes many young people at the Easter Vigil.**



**Newly received, baptized young people receive a lighted candle, symbolizing Jesus as the 'Light of the World.'**



**Young people baptized & received were anointed with Chrism, receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.**



**Fr Ronnie imparts a final blessing as he welcomes the newly baptized and received young people into the Church, asking the Holy Spirit to guide and direct them on their newly initiated journey in faith, to help them to persevere in the face of the challenges which face them in the contemporary world. He thanked the Crossan's for helping in their preparation through the OCIA.**



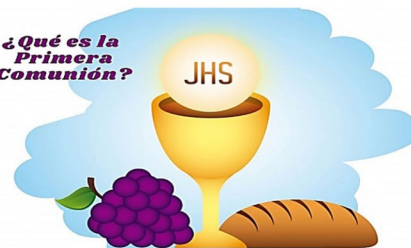
Jesús les dice a sus discípulos que harían obras mayores que las que él hizo. Primero, debemos preguntarnos qué consideraría Jesús como algo mayor. Los apóstoles realizaron muchos milagros gracias a su fe en el Señor. Curaron a los enfermos, e incluso Pedro resucitó a una mujer. Pablo resucitó a un joven después de aburrirlo profundamente durante su sermón.

Jesús se refería a algo mayor en el sentido de la verdadera labor de un discípulo. Su propósito principal era que predicaran la Buena Nueva. Los discípulos comenzaron justo después de Pentecostés, cuando recibieron el poder del Espíritu Santo. Quizás debamos empezar como lo hicieron los apóstoles. Hablaron de su experiencia. Oraron y hablaron sobre lo que había sucedido. Nosotros podemos hacer lo mismo. Podemos hablar de nuestra fe con nuestras familias, en un grupo de discusión parroquial o ayudar en el OICA (Orden de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos). Podemos orar para ser llenos de los dones del Espíritu y para ver a Jesús en otras personas.

**PROGRAMA DE EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA**

**Edificio MacDonald  
Preguntas/Información  
Mayra Donan  
863-453-7537**

*¿Qué es la Primera Comunión?*



**La Primera Comunión es un sacramento fundamental en la Iglesia Católica donde los niños, usualmente entre los 7 y 8 años (edad de la razón), reciben por primera vez la Eucaristía, considerada el cuerpo y la sangre de Jesucristo. Es una celebración de iniciación que requiere preparación previa, incluyendo Catecismo y la Primera Reconciliación.**

*¡Felicidades a Nuestros Niños de Primera Comunión 2026!*



**¿QUÉ SIGNIFICA PENTECOSTÉS**

- Es una solemnidad que celebra la Iglesia 50 días después de la Pascua.
- El Espíritu Santo es Dios. La Tercera Persona de la Santísima Trinidad.
- Con ella se recuerda la venida del Espíritu Santo sobre los apóstoles.
- Los apóstoles recibieron del Espíritu Santo la fuerza para anunciar el Evangelio.
- El Espíritu Santo es quien mueve a la Iglesia y a cada uno de los bautizados.

**GRUPO DE ORACIÓN**

*“Santísima Trinidad”*  
Edificio MacDonald  
Jueves 7:00 PM  
Rosario 6:30 PM  
Para Información  
Hortencia 863-448-6869  
Adela 863-528-8267



**JUAN XXIII**

Edificio San Juan Bosco  
Martes 7:00PM  
Para Información  
863-205-0694 / 863-853-0065  
*“Con Cristo Todo, Sin Cristo Nada.”*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY MAY 2**

8:00 a.m. + Fr. Leo Frechette.  
4:00 p.m. + Tom Kilpatrick by Evelyn Seely.  
7:00 p.m. Odilon Zuniga by Adela Rodriguez.

**SUNDAY MAY 3**

8:00 a.m. Birthday – Kevin Barcinas by Family.  
10:30 a.m. + Frank Soltes by Jonathan & Hazel Go.

**MONDAY MAY 4**

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

**TUESDAY MAY 5**

8:00 a.m. + All Souls in Purgatory.

**WEDNESDAY MAY 6**

8:00 a.m. + Joseph Pathyia by Sal & Mina.

**THURSDAY MAY 7**

8:00 a.m. + Felix Lopez by Lopez Family.

**FRIDAY MAY 8**

8:00 a.m. + Michael Rand by Family.

**SATURDAY MAY 9**

8:00 a.m. + Fr. Gerald Grogan.  
4:00 p.m. + William & Virginia Cook by Evelyn Seely.  
7:00 p.m. + Souls in Purgatory.

**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.

**GENEALOGICAL MEETING**

The Genealogical Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. Last meeting till Fall.

**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

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

**2nd Collection**

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Church Service Center. The Service Center needs more contributions of cereal to meet the needs of the people.

**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



**A very pleasant turn-out at the Parish picnic, Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**



**Make new friends, greet old ones while enjoying great food.**



**Rebecca Torres tempts Fr Ronnie with a treat, to which he readily obliges & shows his appreciation for the feast of delicious food provided at the Parish picnic.**

**Kids enjoy all sorts of goodies with ice cream & Face-painting**



**Betty Anne Lee takes a well-deserved rest after serving delicious food all afternoon.**

**The fire-brigade fascinates kids.**

