

Our Lady of

Grace

Catholic Parish



595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757

4th Sunday of Lent

March 15, 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



El Greco – The Healing of the Blind Man

“As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth... He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, ‘Go wash in the pool of Siloam’ – which means Sent - so, he went and washed, and came back able to see” (John 9: 3-5).

Lent Morning mass – 8 a.m.

Stations of the Cross – Friday, 5 p.m.



“Lord that I may see” – as you see!

The musical, *The Man of La Mancha*, is a story about Don Quixote, a chivalrous knight who transforms Aldonza, the local village “whore.” Unlike her ‘womanizer-friends’ who ‘used-her,’ Don Quixote treats her with respect & dignity. Understandably, because of her past mistreatment by her reputed ‘friends,’ Aldonza, initially, doesn’t trust Don Quixote. Maybe, he is going to take advantage of her. Despite this, Don Quixote continues to treat her with great dignity. In a rare moment of trust, she ‘sees’ herself as Don Quixote “sees her” – she is amazed at her own beauty & dignity. Gradually, she opens up to Don Quixote, and, continues to see herself differently through the

medium of his vision. Don Quixote helps her rediscover her beauty and dignity as a woman. The only reminder of her past was her name, **Aldonza**. Don Quixote fixes that; he changes her name from **Aldonza to Dulcinea**, finally restoring her total dignity as a woman.

Don Quixote is a figure of Jesus in today’s Gospel, where, at the cry of the blind man “**Lord, that I may see,**” he restores not just his physical sight but, even more amazing, his personal sight. He not only **saw Jesus**; more importantly, **he saw as Jesus sees**. The early Church Father, **Irenaeus**, puts it this way: “**The glory of God is man and woman alive with the vision of God.**” It involves, not only seeing, but, even more so, “**seeing with the vision of God.**” The **Aldonza of the Gospels is the woman taken in adultery (Jn 7: 53ff)** – a “whore” in the words of Aldonza, - condemned by bystanders, ready to stone her to death, when Jesus, like Don Quixote with Aldonza, intervenes with a question, “**Woman, has no one condemned you?**” “**No one, sir.**” “**Neither do I**” (Jn 7: 53 – 8: 11). Jesus did not come to condemn but to restore the adulterous woman’s dignity.

This is why it is so important to come to know who Jesus is - it takes time – **it’s a journey in faith**.

After Jesus healed the blind man’s blindness, **he is led on a journey in Faith by his questioners – by his “Disciples,” “Neighbors,” “Pharisees,” “Religious authorities,” and, by “Jesus.”**

To his neighbors, the blind man answers, “**The man Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he did, he was able to “see.”**”

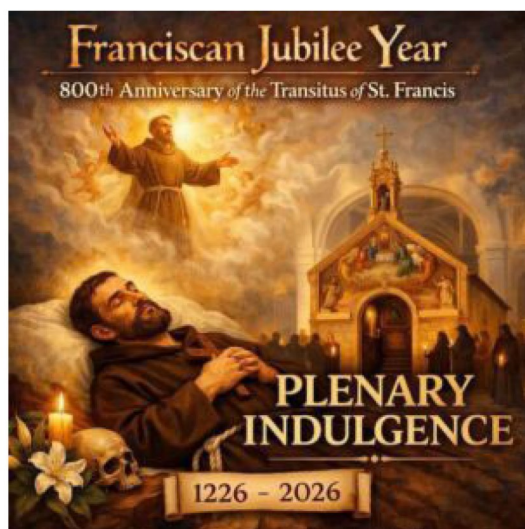
To the Pharisees, he responds, “**He is a prophet.**”

To the Religious authorities he says, “**If this man were not from God,**” he could not do this.

Then, Jesus questions him, “**Do you believe in the Son of Man?**” He answered and said, “**Who is he, sir that I may believe in him?**” Jesus said to him, “**You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he.**” He said, “**I do believe, Lord.**”

His questioners lead the blind man on a **journey in faith**, from knowing Jesus as “**the man Jesus,**” to a “**prophet**” to “**A man of God,**” to a Messianic title, “**Son of Man**” and, finally, to “**Lord.**”

Returning Catholics – the “**none’s**” of the polls – &, those to be received into the Church at Easter – **Catechumens & Candidates** – & **ordinary Catholics**; are on their own unique journeys in faith, coming to know who Jesus is. Pray with the **blind man**, “**Lord that I may see**”- *as you see*.



POPE LEO DECLARES JUBILEE OF ST. FRANCIS WITH PLENARY INDULGENCE

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Special Jubilee Year of St. Francis from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, marking 800 years since the saint's death. This year invites the faithful to live as pilgrims of peace and hope, offering plenary indulgences for visiting Franciscan churches. During the Jubilee, the Apostolic Penitentiary, by the will of the Holy Father, grants a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions: sacramental confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. This indulgence

may also be offered for the souls in Purgatory.

Key details of the Jubilee Year include:

- **Significance:** It commemorates the 800th anniversary of the transitus (passing) of St. Francis of Assisi.
- **Theme:** The year focuses on peace, mercy, humility, and ecological conversion, aiming to bring hope to a world divided by conflict.
- **Plenary Indulgence:** Granted to the faithful who visit a Franciscan church or shrine, receive confession and communion, and pray for the Pope's intentions.
- **Veneration of Relics:** The body of St. Francis will be publicly displayed for veneration in Assisi during February and March 2026.
- **Spirituality:** The focus is on adopting the Franciscan model of holiness in daily life, rather than just a celebration.



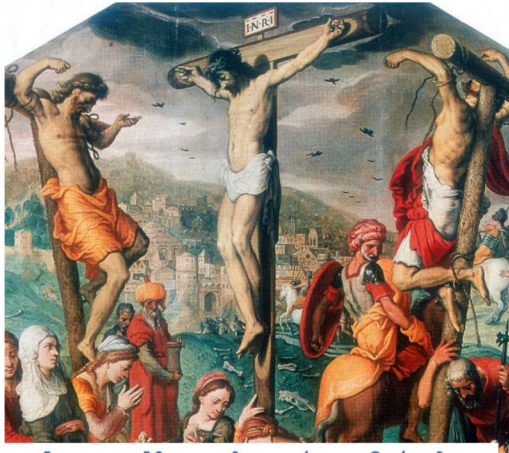
Pope Leo kneels before entombed body of St. Francis in Monastery chapel



Bus Transportation to and from St. Francis Church, Englewood, Saturday, March 21, 2026, cost \$35

Our Lady of Grace Parish is offering **Bus Transportation** to parishioners to visit St. Francis Church, in Englewood, to gain a plenary indulgence, **Saturday, March 21, 2026**. It is a **56-seater bus**, which will leave the Church parking lot at **9:00 A.M. & return at 6:00 P.M.** **The cost of a bus ticket is \$35.00. Tickets can be picked**

up in the Parish Office. The Bus will stop for lunch at your own expense. This will be followed by visitation of St. Francis Church, explanation of Plenary Indulgence, opportunity for Confession, Plenary Indulgence exercises & Mass at 3 P.M.



Jesus: If you're okay & he's okay, what am I doing up here?

“downers” to alleviate their depression. They dealt with their condition in a way they hoped the psychiatrist would explain it away. Dr. Menninger’s prognosis, in many of these cases, was simple. He attempted a little “*shock therapy*” with his patients. They needed to acknowledge the existence of sin: admit their ability to sin; assume responsibility for it, and, confess it. **Dr. Menninger’s advice is simple: “Name it and claim it.”**

Harvey Cox, who teaches at Harvard University, wrote a book entitled, *On Not Leaving It up To the Snake*, in which he tells the story of the fall of our first parents. God came to Adam after he had eaten the apple in the garden and asked him, “**What happened?**” Adam was quick to **point the finger at Eve**. So, God went to Eve and asked her, “**What happened?**” She was quick to **point the finger at the serpent**. The strongest argument for personal sin, according to Professor Cox, is, people are unwilling to assume responsibility for their own sins—they **blame someone else or explain it away**. **Dr. Menninger’s anti-dote is simple: “Name it & claim it.”**

One attitude toward sin is that of the **unrepentant criminal** being crucified with Jesus. There is **no acknowledgement of sin**: no compunction; no confession of wrongdoing; no sorrow and, no contrition. There is only despair, hopelessness and deep depression.

A **2nd attitude to sin** is that of the “**good thief**.” He acknowledges his sin and assumes personal responsibility for it: “*We have been condemned justly for our crimes*”, he said. Then, having **confessed his sin to Jesus, he asked him for forgiveness: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom”**. He assumes responsibility for his sins with a sense of hope. Jesus reassures him: “*Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.*”

Christ is offering us the gift of reconciliation which he offered to both criminals on the cross. Listen to the words of St. Paul: “*God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting our sins against us and entrusting to us the message of his reconciliation.*” Priests, in the words of St. Paul, are “*Ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*” Here is a Lent opportunity to go to Confession.

Area Parishes Lent Communal Penance Services

Monday, March 23, 6:30 – 8:00 P.M., St. James Parish, Lake Placid

Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 – 8:00 P.M., Our Lady of Grace Parish, Avon Park

Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 – 8:00 P.M., St. Paul’s Parish, Arcadia,

Thursday, March 26, 6:00 – 7:30 P.M., St Catherine Parish, Sebring

(12 – 14 priests will be available to hear confessions in English and in Spanish)>



4º Domingo de CUARESMA

***Laetare* o Domingo de la Alegría**

Este domingo se le denomina así por las primeras palabras del Introito de la Misa: “*Laetare Jerusalem*”, que quiere decir “Alégrate, oh, Jerusalén” en Latín. Es simbólico de las alegrías de esta vida, incluyendo la reconciliación con Jesús en la Confesión/Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Pablo usa la oscuridad como símbolo de vergüenza. La vergüenza no es solo el dolor por los pecados; es el temor a ser descubiertos en el pecado o a confesar nuestras debilidades a otros por miedo a que nos juzguen. Solo debemos confesarlos a Dios y recibir su perdón mediante el Sacramento de la Reconciliación/Confesión. Cuando sabemos que Dios nos perdona y nos sigue amando, no tenemos por qué temer lo que piensen los demás. Expongamos nuestros pecados a la luz del perdón y liberémonos de la vergüenza. _ Tom Schmidt

**SERVICIO DE PENITENCIA
DE CUARESMA**

MARTES MARZO 24

6:30 PM
Confesiones

Los Tres Pilares de la Cuaresma
Oración • Ayuno • Limosna

- Dedicar tiempo a la Escritura y a la oración personal
- Haz obras de caridad y servicio
- Practica sacrificio y negación propia

“Arrepiéntanse y crean en el Evangelio.” – Marcos 1:15

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN
“Santísima Trinidad”
Edificio SAN JUAN BOSCO
Jueves 7:00pm
Rosario en Comunidad 6:30pm
Para Información
863-448-6869 / 863-528-8267



**PROGRAMA DE EDUCACIÓN
RELIGIOSA**

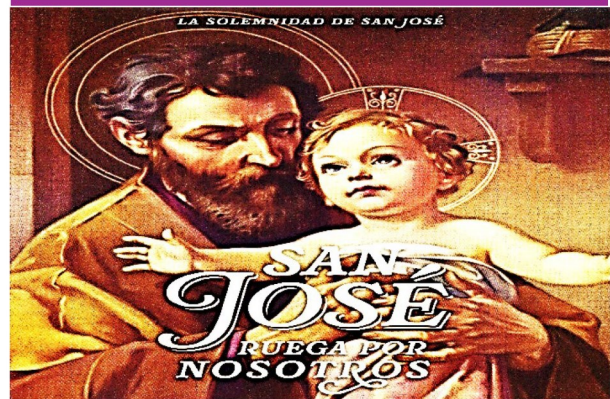
Edificio MacDonald
Grados PreK – 5
Domingos 9:00 a 10:15am
Grados 6 – 12
Miércoles 6:00 a 8:00pm
Preguntas/Información
Mayra Donan 863-453-7537

ADULTOS
Edificio Juan Bosco
Domingos 9:00 a 10:15am



JUAN XXIII
MARTES a las 7:00PM
Edificio San Juan Bosco

Para Información
Omar 863-205-0694 / Elvin 863-853-0065



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY MARCH 14
 8:00 a.m. + Unborn Baby by Our Lady of Grace.
 4:00 p.m. + A.J. Grant by Mom & Dad.
 7:00 p.m. + Minerva Batista by Tata Batista.

SUNDAY MARCH 15
 8:00 a.m. + Michael Rand by Mary Lu Hubbard.
 10:30 am. + Simeon Yap by Fe Schiano.

MONDAY MARCH 16
 8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY MARCH 17
 8:00 a.m. Evily Peros by Kevin Bouffard.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18
 8:00 a.m. Rhea DeKalb by Marla Augustine.

THURSDAY MARCH 19
 8:00 a.m. + Phil & Christine Hatfield by Justine & Paul Devlin.

FRIDAY MARH 20
 8:00 a.m. Bert Grant by Randy Rhodes.

SATURDAY MARCH 21
 8:00 a.m. John Coleman.
 4:00 p.m. Deceased members of John & Mildred Kilpatrick Family by Evelyn Seely.
 7:00 p.m. Sosa Family.



Stations of the Cross, Friday, 5:00 p.m.
 The Stations of the Cross begins with the trial and condemnation of Jesus by Pontius Pilate and, continues Jesus' sorrowful and painful journey to Calvary where he is crucified.

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 Breliniski | 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 | Raffael Aversa | Sherry |
| Jerry Grinkiewicz | Kim Nuccio | Jeannie 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 |
| Joe Deyo | Jackie & Steven | Glen Kegler |

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



Lent Fish Bake, Friday, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Grogan Center.

Parish organizations, including the Ladies Guild, invite parishioners to a **Lenten supper on Friday, in the Grogan Center**. It provides an opportunity to observe the **Lenten abstinence from meat**, while providing a **tasty fish bake dinner**. Come and enjoy a Lenten dinner with friends, or, just come and make a friend. **The Fish Bake costs \$12 per person. All are welcome.**

2nd Collection

The second collection on March 22, 2026, will be for the Catholic Relief Services.

Staff & Ministries

Administrative Assistant

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Mike DeRosa

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Mayra Donan
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Music Director

Gene Ryan
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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



LOOKING FOR A FUN, NEW WAY TO BE MORE ACTIVE?



Looking for a fun way to be more active?

Bingocize is a program that combines the game of Bingo with exercise! It's a fantastic opportunity to stay active, meet new people, and learn valuable techniques designed to reduce the risk of falls.

Bingocize is fun for everyone.

Location:

**Our Lady of Grace-Sarah McDonald Building
(Religious Education Bldg.)**

Days & Times

Tuesdays & Thursdays,

11 AM - 12 Noon

Start Date March 17, 2026 End Date May 21, 2026

Cost/Requirements FREE

Participants must be age 60 or older

Registration Deadline March 16, 2026

Registration Required

Please contact: Bea at 813-676-5036