

Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



24th Sunday Ordinary Time

September 13, 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

Visit us on the web!
www.ologap.org

Forgiveness

is unlocking
the door to set
someone free
and realizing
you were the
prisoner!

~ Max Lucado

SOBRIETY BY THE GRACE OF GOD ©

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18: 21-35)

Peter's Question to Jesus: "How often must I forgive...as many as 7 times?"

Jesus' Answer... "I say to you, not 7 times but 77 times."

Today's Gospel, draws attention to lay Catholics who volunteer as catechists to *"hand-on-the Christian-Faith"* to the next generation of young people in Our Lady of Grace Parish.

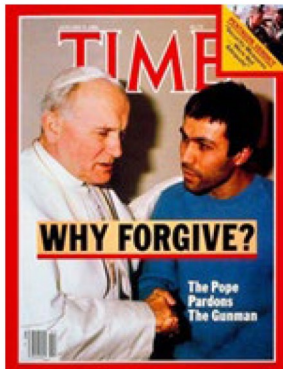
A catechist is someone who wants *"to teach as Jesus did."* We have an excellent example of what that involves in today's Gospel, where Peter puts a question to Jesus: *"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?"* Jesus answered, *"I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times"* (Mt 18: 21-22). Let's look at **2 recent examples.**

The 1st example was in a tiny community in **Nickels Mines Pa**, where a man stormed into a one-room schoolhouse and shot 10 young girls, killing five. He then killed himself. Since the tragedy, **people around the world have been inspired by the way the Amish expressed forgiveness** toward the killer and his family. **Charles Roberts** wasn't Amish, but Amish families knew him as the milk truck driver who made deliveries.

The most powerful demonstration of the depth of Amish forgiveness was when **members of the Amish community went to the killer's burial service.** Several Amish families who had buried their own daughters were in attendance and they hugged the widow, and other members of the killer's family.



Amish Families at killer's burial service with his family



The world was in disbelief when Pope John Paul II was shot in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981, by an assassin from Bulgaria named Ali Aja. **Saint Pope John Paul II**, not only survived the attempted assassination, but, shortly after his recovery, **went to visit his attempted assassin in Regina Coeli prison in Rome** to shake the hand of the man who held the gun to assassinate him: **he forgave him.**

The Amish families and Pope John Paul II embody Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel.

In the Gospel parable, **Jesus contrasts the forgiving attitude of the King - namely God - with the attitude of the debtor** – anyone of us - who he forgave, who, in turn, refuses, to forgive a much smaller debt of one of his debtors. The parable echoes Jesus' aspiration in the "Our Father," *"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."* Jesus exemplifies this teaching from the Cross when he cries out, *"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"*- re-echoed by the priest in the Rite of Penance, *"May Our Lord Jesus Christ absolve you &, by his authority I absolve you"*

We live in a wounded world, captured in the popular REM hit song, *"Everybody hurts sometime...."* **Jesus offers a healing remedy, when he directs us to forgive, "not seven times, but seventy-times-seven-times," exemplified by the Amish families and Pope St. John Paul II.** It is in this vein that the catechist, is invited *"to teach as Jesus did."*



National Grandparents Day

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that approximately 5.7 million grandparents live with grandchildren in their households, and that 2.7 million of those co-resident grandparents are primary caregivers for their grandchildren,

representing 42 percent of all grandparents residing with their grandchildren. Grandmothers constitute the largest proportion — 63 percent — of these caregivers, and African-American families represent the majority — 52 percent of — all caregiving grandparents. In some disadvantaged neighborhoods, up to 20% of children have a grandparent as their primary caregiver.

One person we know whose grandmother made a difference in his life is **Barack Obama**. Raised by **Madelyn Dunham**, his maternal grandmother, she died on the eve of his election. Obama cited his relationship with her as both formative and transformative. "She's the one who taught me about hard work," he said. "She's the one who put off buying a new car or a new dress for herself so that I could have a better life. She poured everything she had into me."



During the current pandemic, many grandparents serve as the primary caregivers for their grandchildren who now attend virtual school in their homes, while mom and dad eke out a living as best they can work outside the home. Because of family break-up caused by the opioid crisis and drug addiction, incarceration, and the high divorce rate, increasing number of grandparents are becoming primary caregivers for their grandchildren. As we recognize, acknowledge and thank them today, we pray for God's choicest blessing on them and wish them happy grandparents' day.

Region	Number of grandparents serving as primary caregivers for grandchildren
Midwest	488,113
North Atlantic	410,213
South	1,236,682
West	580,871
TOTAL	2,715,879

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates



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: 6:00 – 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.



El evangelio de este domingo nos da tres razones porque debemos perdonar: Primero, porque Jesús lo manda. Segundo, porque el perdón es parte de amarse unos a otros. Y tercero, porque queremos ser perdonados por nuestros pecados.

Jesús nos manda a perdonar sin cesar, sin límite. Entonces, ¿Significa que debemos dejar que alguien nos lastime una y otra vez? No. Podemos perdonar a un familiar alcohólico, pero aun así insistimos en que busque ayuda. Podemos perdonar a un hijo o una hija que infringe la ley, pero todavía dejar que afronte las consecuencias para que aprenda de su error. Podemos perdonar a un amigo que pide dinero prestado sin devolverlo y también remitirlo a un asesor de crédito en lugar de prestarle más dinero. Jesús ya murió por nuestros pecados. Si verdaderamente creemos que Jesús resucitó y que resucitaremos con él a la vida eterna a pesar de nuestros pecados, ¿cómo podemos negarnos a perdonar a alguien que nos lastima?

Por eso la cruz es un símbolo tan poderoso. Nos pide aceptar el sufrimiento por causa de Jesús. Nos recuerda que a veces la cruz es simplemente perdonar a alguien en lugar de lastimarlo u odiarlo. Si Jesús dio su vida para perdonarnos, ¿estamos dispuestos a extender ese perdón hacia otros?

—Tom Schmidt



Nuestra Señora de los Dolores (Septiembre 15)

También conocida como La Dolorosa, es una *advocación* (representación o título) de la Virgen María. Esta advocación conmemora el sufrimiento y el dolor emocional especialmente durante la Pasión y Muerte de su hijo Jesús.

¡Separa la Fecha!
GRUPO DE MUJERES
NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA GRACIA
¡BIENVENIDAS!

Octubre 14 en el Salón Grogan
Hora social 12 mediodía

Reunión comienza a la 1:00pm

¡Todas las damas Bilingües están invitadas!

Programa de Educación Religiosa

La cuota de inscripción es de \$60 por niño o \$120 para familias con 3 hijos.

Preescolar a 6º Grados

Domingos 9:00 - 10:15am

7º a 12º Grados, Confirmación y Biblia

Miércoles 6:00 - 8:00pm

Adultos / OCIA

Domingos 9:00-10:00am

Preguntas/Información

Mayra Donan (863) 453-7537

MOVIMIENTO JUAN XXIII
DIOCESIS DE VENICE FL

**RETIRIO DE
HOMBRES #50**
SEPT. 18, 19, Y 20

GRUPO JUAN XXIII Se reúne los **Jueves** a las 6:30 PM en el salón San Juan Bosco. Para información llamar 205-0694/863-852-0065.

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN "SANTISIMA TRINIDAD" Se reúne los **Jueves** a las 7:00pm en el Salón MacDonald. Rosario en Comunidad a las 6:30pm. Para información llamar 863-448-6869 o 863-528-8267.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12

4:00 p.m. + Michael Rand by Family.

7:00 p.m. + Richard Prado by Prado Family.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

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

10:30 a.m. + Jeffrey Babbitt, Jr., by Family.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15

8:00 a.m. + Mr. Orsani by Kelly Conley.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16

8:00 a.m. Thanksgiving – Many blessings of God – Maria Nguyen.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17

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

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18

8:00 a.m. Susan Palmer McCarthy by Bill & Laura Swink.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19

4:00 p.m. + Dorothy Smith by Rose Mary.

7:00 p.m. + Alexis Aguilar by 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	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	Jackie & Steven
Waylon James Adams	Michael Thomas Adams	
Jennifer Vohs	Terry O'Leary	Coty Quillman
Jacqueline Orlando	Jane DeSantis	

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.

2nd Collection

The second collection will be for the Church Service Center on September 5 & 6, 2026.

The second collection on September 12 & 13, 2026, will be for the Catholic University of America.

Staff & Ministries

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

Parish Council

President

Betty Anne Lee
863-873-7176



Dutch artist reconstructs the face of Jesus with AI

The hyperrealist portrait is a work by a *Dutch* painter, a specialist in using artificial intelligence (AI) in his “reconstructions” of historical characters.

This is the *Dutch* artist and photographer **Bas Uterwijk** who uses artificial intelligence to make hyper-realistic portraits of relevant faces from our history whose appearance has only been achieved to this day through painting or sculpture.

Using a software:

With the help of a free software, called **Artbreeder**, which with artificial intelligence is able to make hyper realistic reconstructions from multiple images, *Uterwijk* makes its digital recreations from photos of paintings and sculptures.

His fame is based on very realistic representations of how *King David*, *Vincent Van Gogh*, *Napoleon* and different figures of the *Egyptian kingdoms*, among many others, looked like, whom he “reconstructed” with his sophisticated technique.

Image of Jesus Christ

In a hyper-realistic image of what Jesus would actually look like, he has incited a profound controversy about the appearance of the *Messiah* for the Judeo-Christian culture.

“I’m trying to guide the software to a credible result. I think of my work more as artistic interpretations than as scientifically or historically accurate images,” the artist said in an interview with *European media*.

For the portrait of *Jesus*, *Uterwijk* used techniques that conformed to the genotype and race of the time he lived, and he added ancient paintings of people who recreated the

Messiah after visions or revelations they claimed to have of the *Son of God*.



The painting to the left is one of the oldest Icons of Jesus, painted on wood, dating back to the 6th century. and is currently preserved at the **Monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai, in Egypt**, one of the oldest monasteries in the world.