

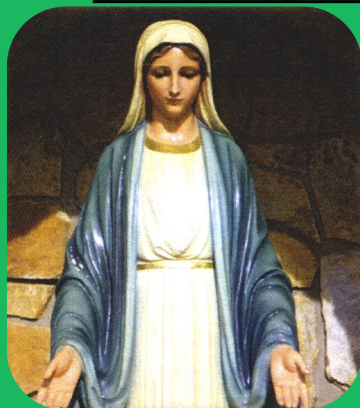
Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



25th Sunday Ordinary Time September 20, 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

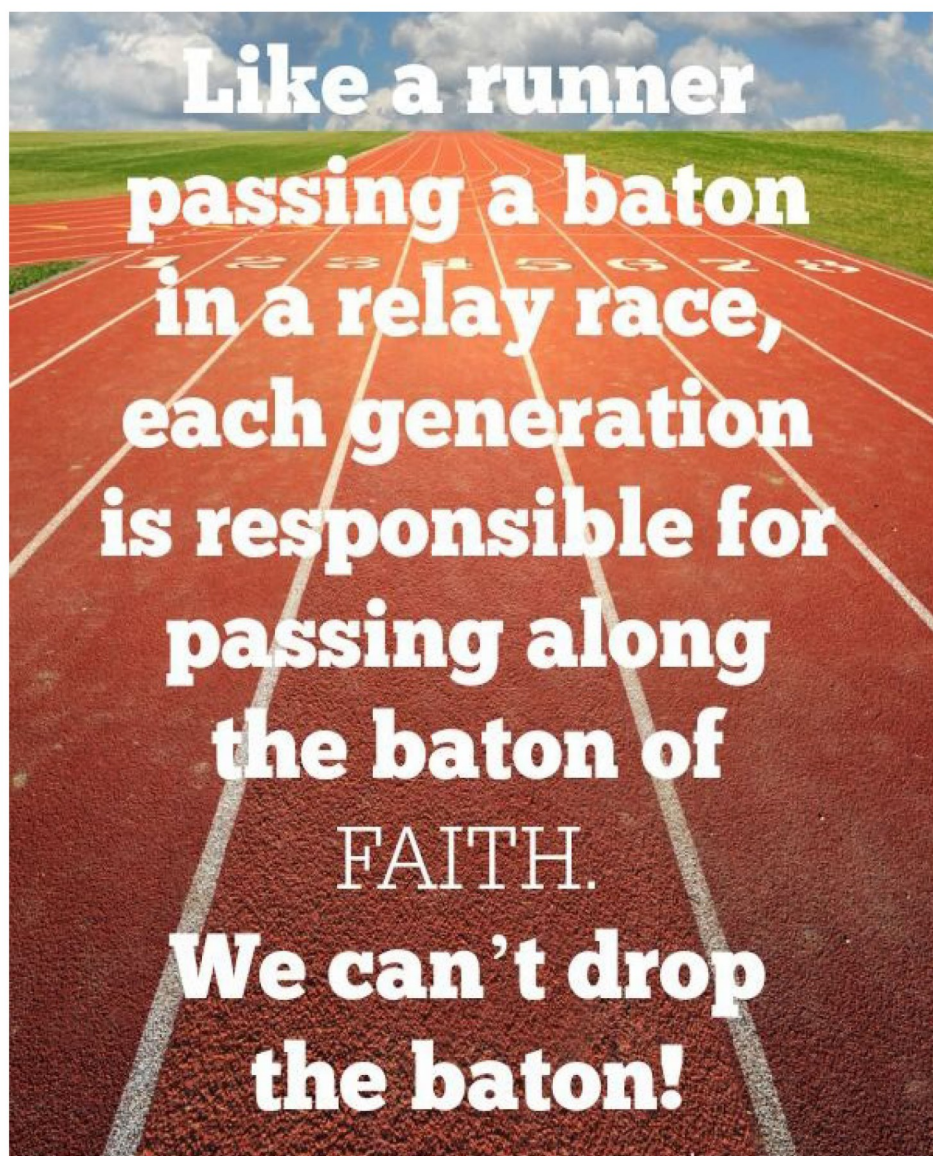
Daily Mass

Tuesday-Friday
8 AM

First Friday

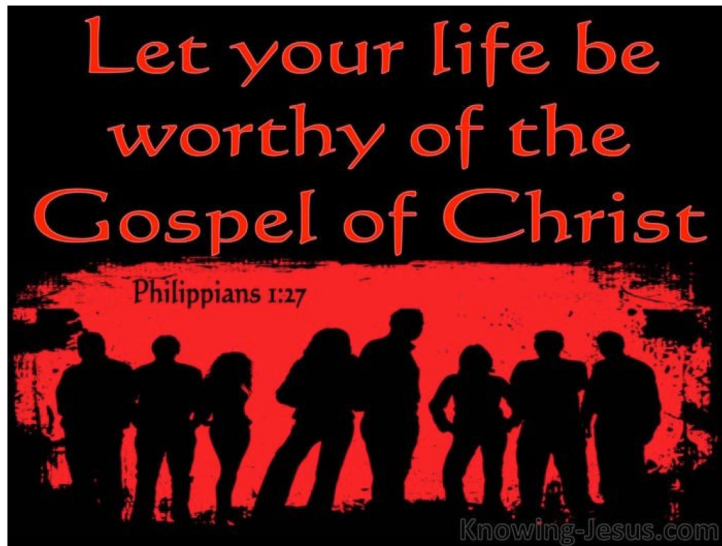
Mass and Holy Hour
8 AM

Visit us on the web!
www.ologap.org



Catechetical Sunday

“I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you...”



Paul's admonition to fellow Christians in today's Letter to the Philippians, *"to conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ"* (Phil: 27), is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian.

Jesus gives us a wonderful example of what this involves in the context of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, in John's Gospel (**John 13: 14-17**). Matthew, Mark and Luke give us the account of the institution of the Eucharist; **John's gospel gives us the significance or meaning of the Eucharist.** In John's

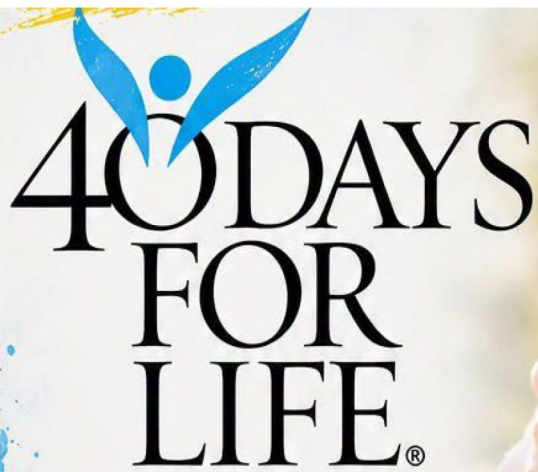
Gospel, Jesus takes a jug, a bowl and a towel; he kneels down and washes the feet of his disciples, with the admonition, *"I have given you an example to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do for one another...I came not to be served but to serve..."* (Jn 13:15).

Which raises the question, **what does my participation at Mass, during which I receive the Eucharist, mean to me?** The celebration of the Mass, in which we receive the Eucharist, is a first step toward expressing what it means to be a Christian. But, then, as we leave Church, the priest reminds us what the significance of receiving the Eucharist means, concluding the Mass with Jesus' challenge: "The Mass is ended; *let us go forth in love and peace to serve the Lord and to serve one another.*"

Jesus' example at the Last Supper and, challenge at the end of Mass, stands in contrast to an incident that occurred in **Fr. DiGiacomo's** class, a Jesuit priest, who taught seniors a class in comparative religions, at **Fordham Prep in New York**. Typical of many Jesuit high schools, there were **Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Moslem, Hindu, and Buddhist students** in his class. In his final semester, Father taught **a class in comparative Religions.**

At the conclusion of his class, he asked his students to answer a question: **if you had a choice, which religion would you choose?** About 50% of his students were Catholic. FR DiGiacomo was delighted when they all responded; they would choose to be Catholic. When he asked them why, he was stunned with their answer; **"Because," they said, "to be Catholic, you don't have to do anything."** Does this sound like you? Does this sound like too many Catholics?

John's account of the institution and meaning of the reception of the Eucharist is that we are called, not just to attend Mass, we are called, in imitation of Jesus in John's account of the Last Supper, to *live the Eucharist* – *"As I have done for you, you should also do for one another...I came not to be served but to serve..."* This is why the priest reminds us at the conclusion of every Mass as we exit Church, **"The Mass is ended, let us go forth in love and peace to serve the Lord and one another."** This is what St. Paul is calling us to in his letter to the Christians in Philippi in today's second reading, **"Conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ"** (Phil 1:27). Do we just hear the Gospel, or, do we live it? Do we just *"go to Mass"*, or, do we *"live the Eucharist?"*



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SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
6:00 PM



SIDEWALK OUTSIDE
PLANNED PARENTHOOD
6418 Commerce Park Dr.
Fort Myers



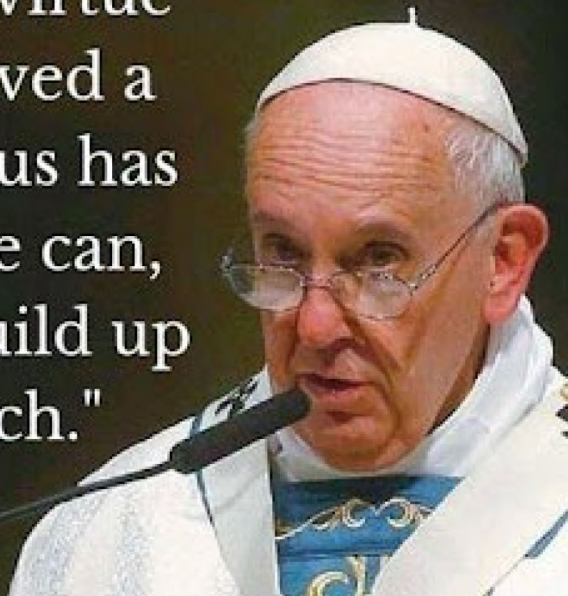
Rain or Shine
We'll Be There!
Bring a lawn chair,
water & umbrella
(just in case!)



www.40DaysForLife.com/FortMyers

"In the end, every Christian man and woman, by virtue of baptism, has received a mission. Each one of us has to respond, as best we can, to the Lord's call to build up his Body, the Church."

Pope Francis



**OCIA meets on Monday, September 28th, 7 p.m.
In Sarah MacDonald Religious Education Bldg.**

The OCIA – The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults – **meets on Monday, September 28th, at 7 p.m., in Sarah MacDonald Religious Education Bldg.** The OCIA, a journey in faith, in which **we come to know who Jesus is in an intimate way:** how he is present in the Church, in the Sacraments, in the Mass, in the Scriptures, in prayer – public & personal – & in every Christian.

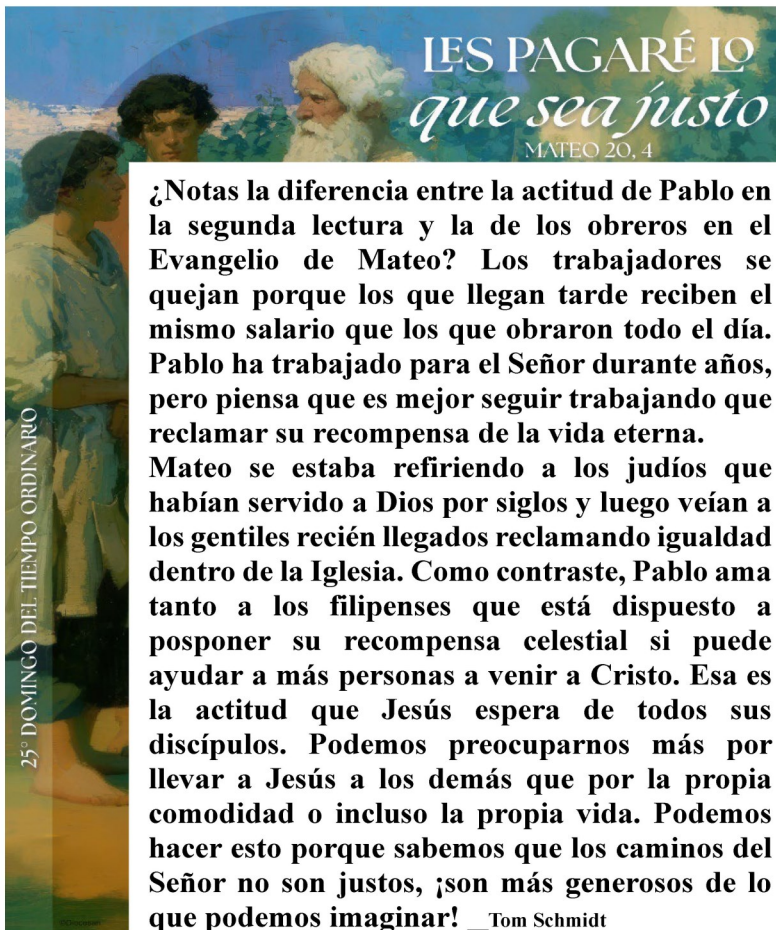
There is a danger that, as important as they are, we become preoccupied with customs and structures and forms of an institution like the Church, when in fact, **the Church – the people of God – should make an encounter with Jesus come alive.**

There are many “**nones**,” – people who say they have no religious affiliation - as they are referred to in the recent surveys on religious practice, that is, non-practicing family members and friends ‘**out-there**,’ just waiting for someone to invite them to return to Church. Or, there may be those who are quietly **searching** for some kind of meaning in their lives.

Unlike many of our Evangelical friends, **Catholics are frequently reticent** to invite “**nones**” or “**searchers**” to come to the OCIA. We prefer to *wait* for them to come to us rather than for us to take the initiative and *go out* and meet them where they are and, *invite them* to come to the OCIA.

Pope Francis has said that the Catholic Church has become a *Maintenance Church* – *we wait* for people to come to us. Let's become a “**Mission Church**” – one that *goes out & invites* the “**nones**” & “**searchers**” to come to know Jesus. Even better, **come with them to the OCIA 1st session.**

Call the Parish Office for information and to Register for OCIA sessions: **863-453-4757.**



¿Notas la diferencia entre la actitud de Pablo en la segunda lectura y la de los obreros en el Evangelio de Mateo? Los trabajadores se quejan porque los que llegan tarde reciben el mismo salario que los que obraron todo el día. Pablo ha trabajado para el Señor durante años, pero piensa que es mejor seguir trabajando que reclamar su recompensa de la vida eterna. Mateo se estaba refiriendo a los judíos que habían servido a Dios por siglos y luego veían a los gentiles recién llegados reclamando igualdad dentro de la Iglesia. Como contraste, Pablo ama tanto a los filipenses que está dispuesto a posponer su recompensa celestial si puede ayudar a más personas a venir a Cristo. Esa es la actitud que Jesús espera de todos sus discípulos. Podemos preocuparnos más por llevar a Jesús a los demás que por la propia comodidad o incluso la propia vida. Podemos hacer esto porque sabemos que los caminos del Señor no son justos, ¡son más generosos de lo que podemos imaginar! __Tom Schmidt

Están invitados a asistir a la Misa de la Novena de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro este miércoles a las 6:00pm. ¡Esperamos que se unan a nosotros en oración!

San Vicente de Paúl
Recaudación de Fondos
Sábado, Septiembre 26
9am-12pm
Para más información
Iglesia Santa Catalina
863-385-0049

**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!

**Congreso Eucarístico del Rosario
Octubre 9, 2026**



8am Misa de Apertura
8:30 Exposición del Santísimo y Rosario cada hora
6pm Clausura con Rosario final y Bendición con el Santísimo Sacramento

Inscríbase para una hora en la hoja disponible en la entrada de la Iglesia. Escriba su nombre y número de teléfono. ¡O simplemente preséntese!

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

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 / 863-528-8267.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19

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

7:00 p.m. + Alexis Aguilar by Family.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20

8:00 a.m. + John Coleman.

10:30 a.m. + Giacomo Schiano by Fe Schiano.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. + Andrew Rucker by Fran Rucker.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23

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

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24

8:00 a.m. Birthday – Luin Vellapally by Sal & Mina.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25

8:00 a.m. + Joan Bender by Dorothy Pansius.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26

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

7:00 p.m. Sally Boliver by Paul and Justine Devlin.

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.

Parish Info Update:

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

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



"The landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.'" (Gospel)

Question

Is Jesus inviting you to serve in his vineyard – the Church? If so, is it to do what **you** want to do for him, or, what **he** wants you to do for him?

**Could you serve as a Catechist, or, invite someone to the OCIA?
Call Mayra Donan, Dir of Rel Educ, (863) 453-7537**