

Our Lady of

Grace

Catholic Parish



595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757

33rd Sunday Ordinary Time

November 16, 2025

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

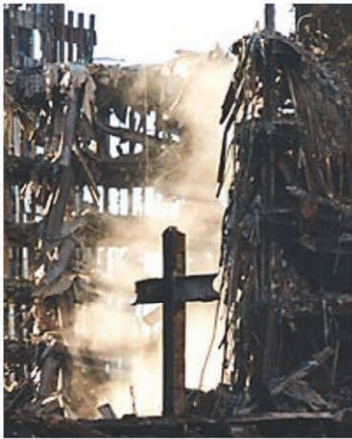
Mass and Holy Hour
8 AM

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The destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem 70 A.D:

*“The days will come when there will not
be left a stone upon another stone that
will not be thrown down.”*



End of an Era: Jesus came to usher in a New World Order.

To help us understand something of the mindset of Jesus' audience in today's Gospel when they hear him speak about the destruction of the Temple, you need to 'fast-forward' to the 21st century to the U.S. and know how we felt on the morning of "9/11" with the destruction of the Twin Towers. We were numbed as we watched the Twin Towers and the Pentagon hit by passenger planes, with another plane crashing as it attempted to turn back toward Washington, perhaps to be used as a missile on the White House.

9/11 signaled the end of an era in the U.S. The unthinkable had happened. The Twin Towers represented the heart of the financial world in U.S. The Pentagon represented the heart of the strongest and greatest military power in the world. The White House represented the heart of one of the greatest democracies in the world. The American mainland had never been attacked by a foreign power in its history and on 9/11 we witnessed the destruction of two of the 3 great symbols of American power. It was the end of an era in the U.S. America would never be the same again.

It was this kind of experience which Jesus describes in this morning's Gospel when he speaks about the destruction of Jerusalem and especially when he speaks about the destruction of the Temple. Like the Twin Towers, which was a symbol of the city of New York, the Temple was a symbol of the city of Jerusalem. Jesus' followers could not think of Jerusalem without the Temple.

When Jesus speaks about the destruction of Jerusalem and, about the destruction of the Temple, he is not speaking about the end of *the* world, but an end of *a* world, an end of an era - an old-world order was giving way to a new one.

Jesus came to introduce a new kingdom, the kingdom of God. This kingdom would not be built in a Temple building but, be built in the minds and hearts of people. Jesus announced that this new world order would be ushered in by "*earthquakes*" and "*famines*."



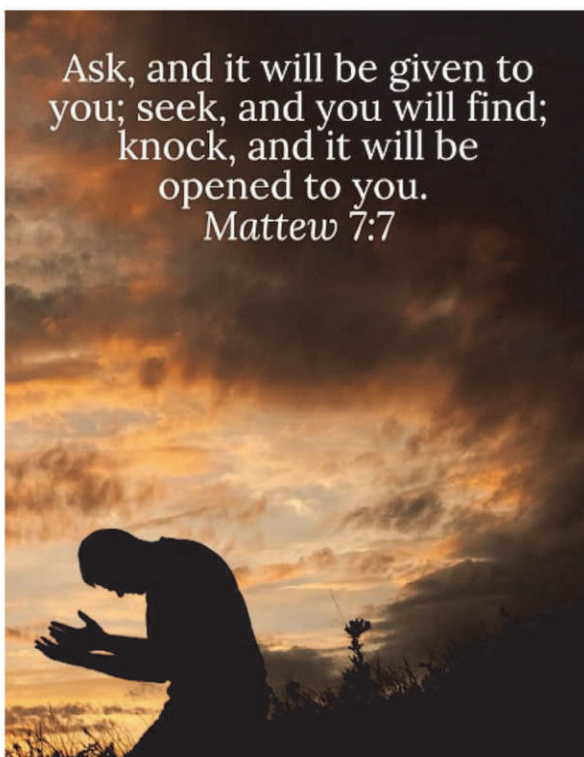
An "*earthquake*" shakes the very foundations on which we stand. When the kingdom of God comes, it will shake the very foundations on which our lives are built – our ego, money, power – all will be shaken to their very roots when Christ, the Messiah, comes.

What is the significance of "*famines*"? It raises the question: what feeds us? What sustains us? What influences, what "voices" "feed" us on a daily basis? – TV, iPods, peers, computers, technology, radio etc. - We will have to deny ourselves listening to these influences only if we are to allow the Word of Jesus and his message to influence the way we live in this new world order. We will have to experience a "*famine*" of these influences in our daily lives. Instead of indulging ourselves with these influences, we will have to "*deny ourselves*" so that with St. Paul we can say, "*I live, now not I, but Christ lives in me.*" This is a new world order that Jesus came to usher in.

Scripture scholars *interpret* the Scriptures for us; Christians are called to *live* the Scriptures.

St. Francis sums it up this way: "*Preach and, if you must, use words.*"

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
Matthew 7:7



Help a 'searcher' to find life's purpose
Invite a family member, friend, or, a workmate, to attend the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), on Monday evenings, at 7 P.M. in the Religious Education Bldg. Or, better, come with them to a first session.

Ours is a restless, anxious era; restless, inside; searching on the outside. For what? Like the Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well (John 4), we are **"thirsty,"** not always satisfying that **"thirst,"** because we are drinking from the wrong "wells." She discovered the right **"Well"** when she met and listened to **Jesus at the Well.** She finally discovered what she was searching for.

In offering an introduction and overview of what Catholics believe and practice, it also affords the seeker and searcher to ask their own unique questions, which are unique to their search and, in doing so, enrich the search of others attending the session.



**Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Collection today, November 18/19th**

For more than 50 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has supported organizations that combat poverty and improve the lives of people in communities across the United States.

Not only do CCHD-funded organizations advocate with civic, business, and community religious leaders to improve access to affordable housing, job and educational opportunities, and rights for immigrants—they also respond quickly to urgent needs when communities experience emergencies.

When parishioners give to your diocesan collection, **25% of your contributions stays in your diocese** to bring positive results to the lives of your neighbors and community.

At the end of our lives,
we will not be judged by
how many diplomas we
have received, how
much money we have
made or how many
great things we have
done. We will be judged
by how many souls
would bear witness for
us and say "I was
hungry and you gave
me something to eat. I
was naked and you
clothed me. I was
homeless and you gave
me shelter."
- Mother Teresa

<https://www.facebook.com/BedeempledBrain>



OLG International Food Festival



Full House, with international cuisine and entertainment from Asia – great array of Filipino – Europe – Italian, Polish, German - Caribbean, U.S. and Latin America.



Fr Ronnie about to sample the Filipino cuisine.



Debbie Augusta with chef



Irish fare, 6 pack + potato



Anyone for Roasted pig?



Visiting nun enjoys food.





NI UN CABELLO
DE TU CABEZA
SERÁ DESTRUIDO

Cuando Jesús resucitó, mostró a sus discípulos que incluso la muerte será vencida por Dios dando dos consejos. Primero, no se dejen engañar por nadie que diga que este es el fin o que dice que es Jesús. Cuando Jesús regrese, no habrá duda de quién es. Segundo, no se dejen aterrorizar por los desastres naturales ni las guerras.

Como discípulos, esperamos responder a los desastres no con miedo, sino con amor. Los creyentes pueden ayudar voluntariamente a los afectados, consolar a los sobrevivientes o ayudar a reconstruir sus hogares o escuelas. Pueden optar por donar sangre o dar a una de las organizaciones benéficas que ayudan a las víctimas de desastres. Hay personas que han recibido a desconocidos en sus hogares después de que una inundación o un huracán destruye un vecindario.

Jesús nunca dice que sus discípulos serían recompensados por sus actos de caridad. Jesús también tiene un consejo para esa situación. La presenta como una oportunidad para dar testimonio de nuestra fe. Jesús nos dice “no tienen que preparar de antemano su defensa,” sino dejemos que El nos dé las palabras. Creo que se refiere a no preocuparse de lo que vamos a decir, para no quedarnos sin palabras por el miedo. Si se lo permites, Jesús te “preparará” con las lecturas de las Sagradas Escrituras, las homilías de tu párroco y tu propia vida de oración. Todo esto puede abrirnos a los dones del Espíritu, quien nos ayuda a proclamar la fe sin miedo. ___Tom Schmidt



GRUPO DE ORACIÓN “SANTISIMA TRINIDAD”

Se reúne los Jueves a las 7:00pm
en la Iglesia. Rosario a las 6:30pm.

Para información llamar Hortencia 863-448-6869 o Adela 863-528-8267.

GRUPO JUAN XXIII

Se reúne los Jueves a las
6:30 PM en el salón San
Juan Bosco. Para
información llamar
Omar 205-0694 o Elvin
863-853-0065.



Presentación de la Virgen María

21 de noviembre



Esta celebración evoca la consagración que la Virgen hizo de sí misma a Dios, entrega prefigurada en su **concepción inmaculada** y que se va realizando a lo largo de su vida, en sintonía con los designios del Espíritu Santo. Por eso, decimos de María que es “La Llena de Gracia”. E Papa Sixto V extendió la festividad a toda la Iglesia, incorporándola al calendario litúrgico romano.

Programa de Educación Religiosa

Grados PreK-6

Domingos 9:00 - 10:15am

Grados K-12

Miércoles 6:00 - 8:00pm

Adultos

Domingos 9:00-10:15am

Preguntas/Información

Mayra Donan (863) 453-7537



¿Quieres responder a este llamado?
¡Hoy agarra un sobre y haz tu donación!

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15

8:00 a.m. For Our Parish Family.
 4:00 p.m. + William Cook by Evelyn Seely.
 7:00 p.m. + Esperansa Garcia by Felipe Garcia Family.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16

8:00 a.m. + Carol Jacob by Richard Jacob.
 10:30 a.m. + Clotide Diaz by Josey Zoraida.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18

8:00 a.m. + Glenn Hartsfield by Ann Hartsfield.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19

8:00 a.m. + Tony Buddington by Jeffrey Kindeler.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20

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

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. + Andy Ruckert by Francis Ruckert.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. For Our Parish Family.
 4:00 p.m. + James & Bernadine Black by Bert & Deb Grant.
 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass.

CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

Our Goal is \$122,000.00. To date the amount we've received is \$102,185.00. Our balance remaining is \$19,815.00.

FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Joan Morgan	Candida Reyes	Kathy Furtado
Rosa Arosemena	Andres Clavijo	Jade Jackson
Martha Clavijo	Harold Raccine	Carol Krause
Donna Skelly	Roger Brelinski	Jean Rapp
Rosemary Melinson	Cameron Prosperi	Joan Bender
Deb Perry	Martha Spung	Louise Schorsch
Donald Schorsch	Ed Carrigan	Joey Prescott
Michael Rand	Bea Pedara	Marty Worley
Sharon Ingalls	Gary Ingalls	Dennis Hood
Susan Beaudoin	Amy Slane	Jeff Babbit
Rose Brault	Waylen James	Raffael Aversa
Jerry Grinkiewicz	Kim Nuccio	Sherry
Jeannie Stopa	Jim Stopa	Marie Burley
Rick Burley	Ron Maslyk	Kathy Reisert
Clay Gooch	Janice Vreeland	

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

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October is Respect Life Month, and the Choices FRC annual fundraising campaign is underway. The Knights of Columbus will be passing out baby bottles after mass beginning October 18th in support of this campaign. You can fill the bottles with coins, bills or checks made out to Knights of Columbus. Please be generous and return the baby bottles by November 30, 2025.

FUNDRAISER

The Religious Education Program are taking pre-orders for Poinsettia for the holidays. Flowers must be pre-ordered. Forms are available at the Church or office. Orders will be taken from November 8 thru November 30, 2025. Pick up will be on Sunday, December 7, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

For more information, please call Mayra Donan @863-214-3025 or 863-453-4757.



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



Thomas Merton's Prayer for Discernment

[One of the great Spiritual guides of the 20th century. Thomas Merton became a Catholic while a student at Columbia University. Then, he became a monk. He spent much of his early adult life "searching." It is a prayer that searches – the young & not-so-young - might want to pray.]

*O Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going,
I do not see the road ahead of me,
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
And that fact that I think
I am following Your will
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe
That the desire to please You
Does in fact please You.
And I hope I have that desire
In all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
Apart from that desire to please You.
And I know that if I do this
You will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, I will trust You always
Though I may seem to be lost
And in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
For You are ever with me,
And You will never leave me
To make my journey alone.*

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