

Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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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Joseph took Mary into his Home

Christmas Mass Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent

- **Divine instruction (Matthew 1: 20 – 25):**

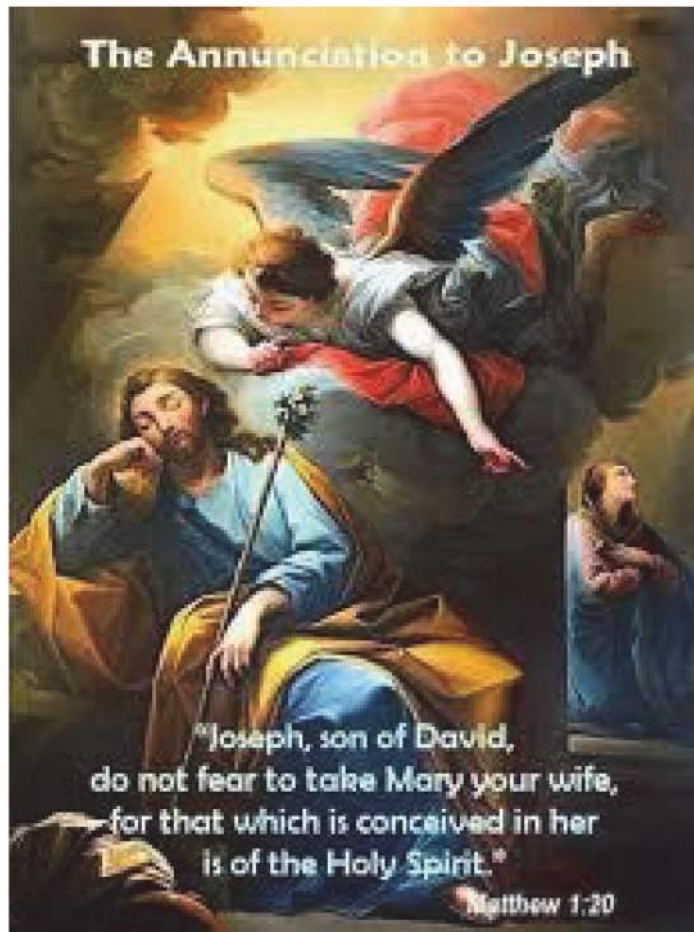
An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, because the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

- **Joseph's obedience:**

When Joseph woke up, he followed the angel's instructions and took Mary to be his wife.

- **Naming the child:**

Joseph named the son Jesus, as the angel had instructed him



Christmas Mass schedule

**Christmas Eve, 3 Vigil Masses,
Wednesday December 24th**

**4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. (Spanish),
10:00 P.M. (Philippine Music)**

Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec 25th

8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

It is interesting and worth noting that the first people to hear the *“good news”* of the birth of the Savior of the world was not the religious authorities of the day: it was not the prominent leaders of society; it was not the celebrities of the day. No, it was **a group of shepherds** from the region around **Bethlehem** who were *“living in the fields and keeping night watch over their flock.”*

Who were these shepherds? The shepherds lived on the margins of the society of the day. They were regarded as crude, rugged

individualists; not very sociable; eyed with a certain suspicion and distrust. They very much **lived lives of impoverishment.**

What was God’s message to them?

*“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you **good news of great joy that will be for all the people.** For today in the city of David **a savior has been born for you who is the Messiah & Lord.**”*

The shepherds represent all of us whose lives have been impoverished in any way by a **“Dark night.”** Just as the *“good news”* broke through the **“dark night”** of the shepherds’ lives, so too, today, the *“good news”* breaks through the **“dark night”** that has enveloped our lives over the past year with the consequences of the worst hurricane **Helene** and **Milton**; the unrest in the country; the downturn in the economy; a failed or broken love relationship or marriage or broken family; it may be a struggle with some form of addiction, put so perceptively by Simon and Garfunkel: *“Hello darkness my old friend.”* The silver lining is the joy-inducing message, **“A Savior has been born for you”** in the midst of your **“Dark night.”**

It was to those going through their own *“dark night”* that the angels announced the *“good news”* of the birth of a Savior first, - and now in our time.

May you be blest with the joy at the birth of the Savior this Christmas.

Father Ronnie and Parish Staff.

Did you know that Rudolf the **Red Nose Reindeer** is a Christmas Parable?

Did you know that one of the famous Christmas stories, "*Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer*," was written by Robert L. May in 1939 and, later put to music by his brother-in-law, Johnny Marks?



What you may not know, or, maybe you do, is that it is a **Christmas parable** that gives us a deeper or underlying message into the meaning of the Christmas story.

Let Johnny Marks give us the first chapter of the story:
*Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer had a very shiny nose.
 And if you ever saw him, you would even say it glows.
 All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names.
 They never let poor Rudolf join in any reindeer games.*

Rudolf had a flaw, a fault, a "**shiny Red Nose.**" It was so "**shiny**" and so "**red**" that it used to even "**glow**" in the dark. No, he was not a recovering alcoholic. The other reindeer "**used to laugh and call him names**" because his shiny **red nose "glowed"** in the dark.

Rudolf was not unlike us when the baby Jesus was born. The angel explained to Joseph (Mt 1: 23) in a dream that he was to name the child "**Jesus**," a name which means "**he shall save his people from their sins.**" Jesus came to save us like Santa came to save Rudolf. **Jesus** took upon himself our "**shiny red nose**," our flawed and tainted human nature. Time-and-time-again we read references in the scriptures to Jesus "**eating with publicans and sinners.**" Jesus, like Santa, chose someone like Rudolf, namely, Peter. He was a fisherman. Peter had a fault similar to Rudolf; he was **very impulsive** – that was Peter's "**shiny red nose**" for all to see and "**laugh at.**" When Jesus was present at the Last Supper, he announced that one of his disciples would betray him. This triggered Peter's response: "**Though all of the others betray you I will never betray you.**" In the courtyard, Peter was quick to deny Jesus when accused of being one of his followers by a servant girl. Later, Peter became the '**laughing stock**' of the other disciples. What did Jesus do? He made Peter the '**leader of the pack.**' Just as Santa made Rudolf the leader in bringing "good cheer" and "Good News" to the children around the world, so Jesus chose Peter and, made him the leader in bringing the "**Good News of salvation**" to all the people of the world.

Johnny Marks continues with the story:

*"Then one foggy Christmas Eve Santa came to say:
 Rudolf with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight."*

Rudolf's flaw, his fault, his "**shiny red nose**," became his virtue. How? Because it "**glowed**" like a light bulb at night guiding the rest of the reindeer "**in the dark.**" Peter's weakness became his virtue; it helped him to empathize with & show compassion for people who made mistakes like his. Peter's fault shines like a "**light**" in the "**dark night**" of many believers' lives, giving them hope. **Santa did for Rudolf what Jesus did for Peter and for us; He came to "save us."**

Let's listen to the end of the story:

*Then all the reindeer loved him as they shouted out with glee;
 'Rudolf the red nose reindeer, you'll go down in history.'*

What a happy ending to the story! Just as Rudolf has gone down in history because of what Santa did for him, so too, Peter and all sinners who have been saved have gone down in history – "**Salvation history.**" The story of Rudolf the **red nose reindeer** is just another way of telling the Christmas story – **the story of salvation history.** Kids enjoy and, a happy and blessed Christmas.



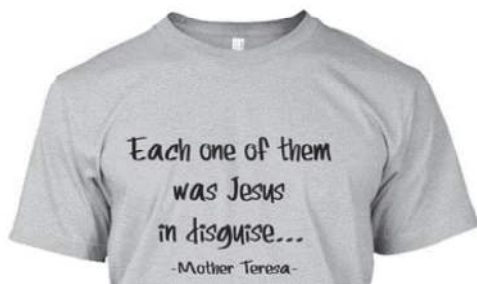
St. Nicholas, whose feast day is Dec. 6, is the patron saint of Christmas Gift-giving.

Genuine Christmas gift giving is always **'other-centered'** and not **'self-centered.'**

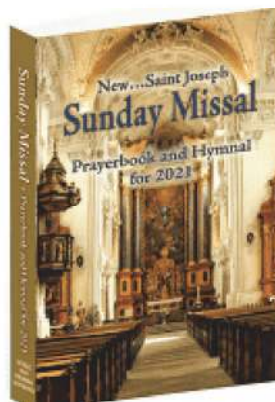
Gift-Giving-cards - for Christmas at OLG!

In OLG parish, **the season of gift giving is in the air.** It is this time of the year when we **become more aware of children from families in need.** Jesus was one of those; born **in a stable**, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger (**Luke 2:7**). He still comes to us **'in disguise'** today.

While toys are always appreciated by kids from families in need, **Gift cards** may be more practical and also more welcome by parents, who are experiencing financial difficulties. This may be more practical & helpful for many families. Instead of toys, their kids may need a new pair of shoes or clothes. The **gift cards** can help parents decide better what their child or children need most.



Our traditional **Jesse Tree** is displayed in our church throughout the **Advent season.** You can begin bring your **gift cards** and put them in a box under **the Jesse tree.** This will make Christmas special for so many kids in need. **Thank you and, God bless & reward you.**



St. Joseph Sunday missal for 2026

Available and, can be picked up in the Parish Office



2025 Boxes of Church offertory envelopes, available & can be picked up in Grogan Center.



2025 OLG CFA update – Final month

2025 OLG CFA Goal: \$122,000

Received to date (11/28/2025)

\$108,060 of goal

From 12.5% of all families.

To Date, 87.5% of all families have yet to make a pledge, or, one-time payment

1 month in 2025 to meet deficit – \$13,940

Here's the scoop!

We need a 'full-course-press' to erase OLG 2025 CFA \$13,940 deficit, with a 1-time generous pledge/donation of \$25 per family. God loves a generous giver. Thanks.



Este domingo antes de Navidad, vemos que el nacimiento de Jesús es el cumplimiento de la promesa de Emmanuel, que significa “Dios con nosotros”. En la primera lectura vemos que Ajaz, el rey de Judá está siendo atacado por los reyes de Siria e Israel. Quiere pedir ayuda a los asirios, en lugar de confiar en Dios.

En el Evangelio, José tampoco entiende cómo María estaba embarazada. Pero a diferencia de Ajaz, José sí tenía fe en Dios y en el mensaje del ángel. Tomó a María por esposa, la ayudó durante su embarazo, evitó que Herodes asesinara a Jesús tras la visita de los Magos y después cooperó en la crianza de Jesús,

Ahora debemos también elegir en quién confiamos: ¿Actúo como Ajaz, confiando en los poderes mundanos, o como José, que confió en el Señor? Si analizo mis acciones y prioridades, podría parecerme más a Ajaz de lo que quiero admitir.

¿Cuánto tiempo dedico a ver la televisión en comparación con el tiempo que dedico a la oración? ¿Cuánto tiempo dedico a leer las Escrituras? ¿Cuánto gasto en adornos o regalos navideños para mi familia en comparación con lo que doy a la Iglesia? Si realmente creo que “Dios está con nosotros”, que es lo que realmente importa de la Navidad, ¿la gente puede ver a Dios en mis acciones? Tal vez podríamos ver cuán cerca está Dios realmente y dejar que los demás vean en nuestras acciones que Jesús es Emmanuel... Tom Schmidt



HORARIO DE MISAS PARA LAS FIESTAS DE DICIEMBRE

Misa de Vigilia de Nochebuena
24 de diciembre a las 4:00 y 10:00pm
Misa de Navidad
25 de diciembre a las 8:00 y 10:30am
Solemnidad de Santa María, Madre de Dios
31 de diciembre a las 4:00pm
Misa de Año Nuevo
1 de enero de 2026 a las 8:00 y 10:30am



GRUPO DE ORACIÓN Y JUAN XXIII

Estarán en receso hasta jueves enero 8, 2026.



PROGRAMA DE EDUCACION RELIGIOSA

Edificio McDonald

Grados Pre-K-6 Domingos

9:00 a 10:15am

Grados K-12 Miércoles

6:00 a 8:00pm

Preguntas/Información

Mayra Donan 863-453-7537

MASS INTENTIONS**SATURDAY DECEMBER 20**

8:00 a.m. + Fr. Leo Frechette.
 4:00 p.m. + William & Virginia Cook
 by Evelyn Seely.
 7:00 p.m. + Faride Sarmiento by
 Family.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. + Jesusa M. Diaz by Jose
 and Zoraida.
 10:30 a.m. + Jerry Myers by Chuck
 Kilgore.

MONDAY DECEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23

8:00 a.m. + Al & Jennie Grant by Bert
 and Deb Grant.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24

8:00 a.m. English Mass.
 4:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Mass – Sal &
 Mina's Family by Sal &
 Mina.
 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass.
 10:00 p.m. English Mass – Filipino
 Music.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 25

8:00 a.m. English Mass.
 10:00 a.m. For Our Parish Family.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26

8:00 a.m. Bert Grant by Randy Rhodes.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27

8:00 a.m. + Fr. Gerald Grogan.
 4:00 p.m. + J. Dale Pounds by Judy
 Pounds and Family.
 7:00 p.m. + Felix Lopez by Faina
 Lopez.

2026 MISSALS

The 2026 Missals are available in the
 Parish Office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
 Monday thru Friday. Missals are \$5.00
 each.

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.

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed on
 Wednesday & Thursday, December
 24th & 25th. The office will re-open
 on Friday, December 26, 2025.

STEWARDSHIP FAIR

How to share your talent with your
 Parish Community. There will be a
 Stewardship Fair on Sunday, January
 11, 2026, from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. in
 the Grogan Center. Everyone is
 invited to come. More details to
 come.

STOCKING STUFFER

Looking for that special gift? Get a
 ticket for the Valentine Dance.
 February 14, 2026, Dinner and
 Dance with the famous California
 Toe Jam Band. Tickets are \$50.00
 each and available at the office or
 from Judy Nugent (863) 446-1841.



Staff & Ministries

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Mike DeRosa

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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



God Sent Us A Savior

If our greatest need had been for information,
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been for pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness,
So, God sent us a Savior.

Dear parishioners:

*Let us go with the shepherds to Bethlehem,
"to see this thing that has taken place, which
the Lord has made known to them and, find
Mary and Joseph and, the infant lying in
the manger" and join in amazement.
It is in this spirit of joy and amazement that
I wish you a joyous and blessed Christmas.*

Fr. Ronnie and Staff.



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