

Our Lady of



Grace

Catholic Parish



595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757

1st Sunday of Lent

February 22, 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

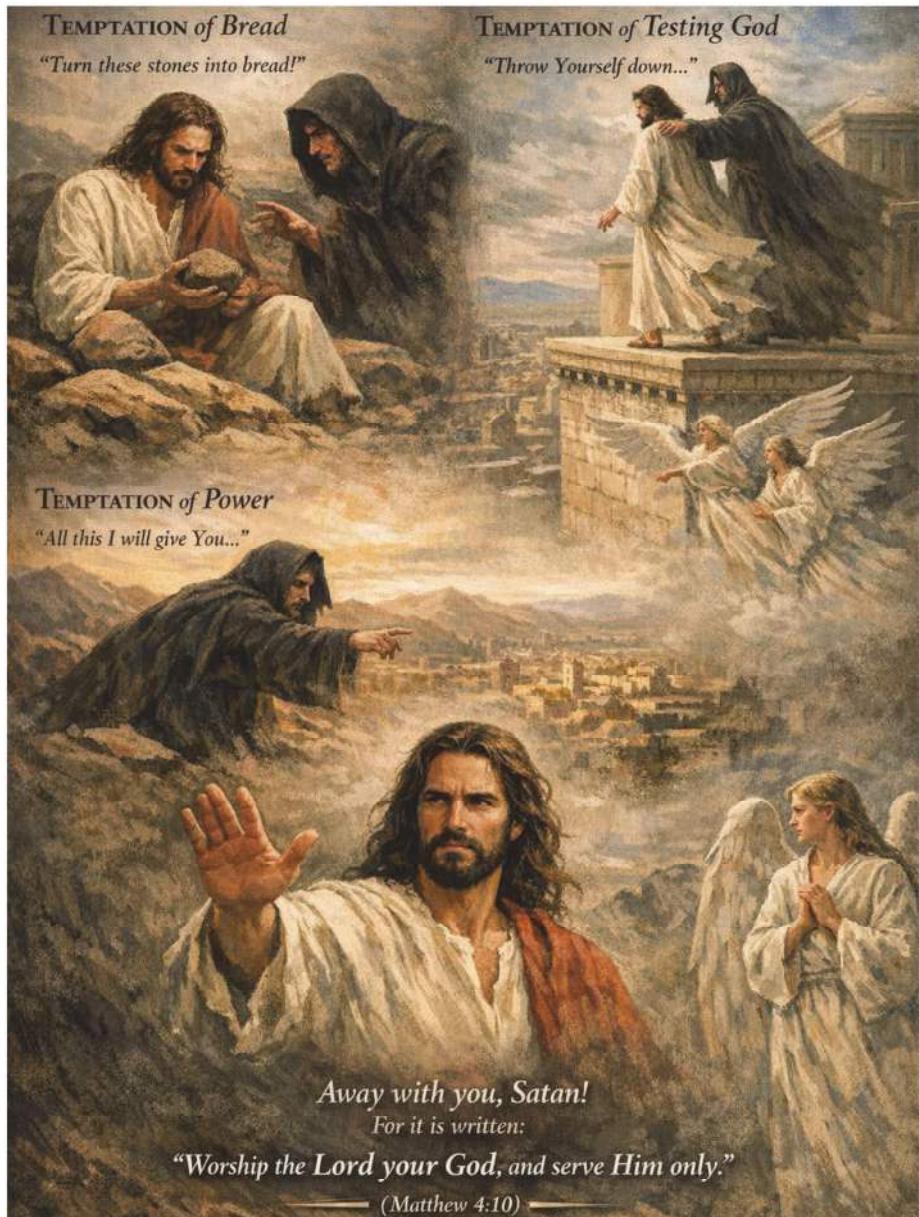
Sunday
8 AM and 10:30 AM

Holy Days
Vigil Mass 6:30 PM
8 & 10:30 AM

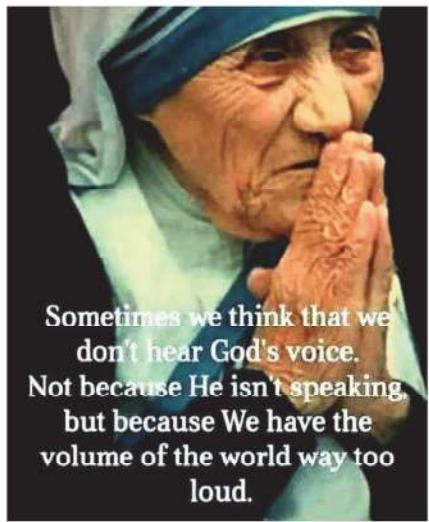
Daily Mass
Tuesday-Friday
8 AM

First Friday
Mass and Holy Hour
8 AM

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1st Sunday of Lent: "Jesus led out to the Desert to be tempted."



Jesus Temptation – “If you are the Son of God...” Each of the 3 temptations in today’s Gospel are prefaced by a **central temptation** which Jesus will face in his Mission and Public Ministry, namely, **“If you are the Son...”** This is at the heart of **Jesus’s identity**, for non-believers’ & believers, then & now.

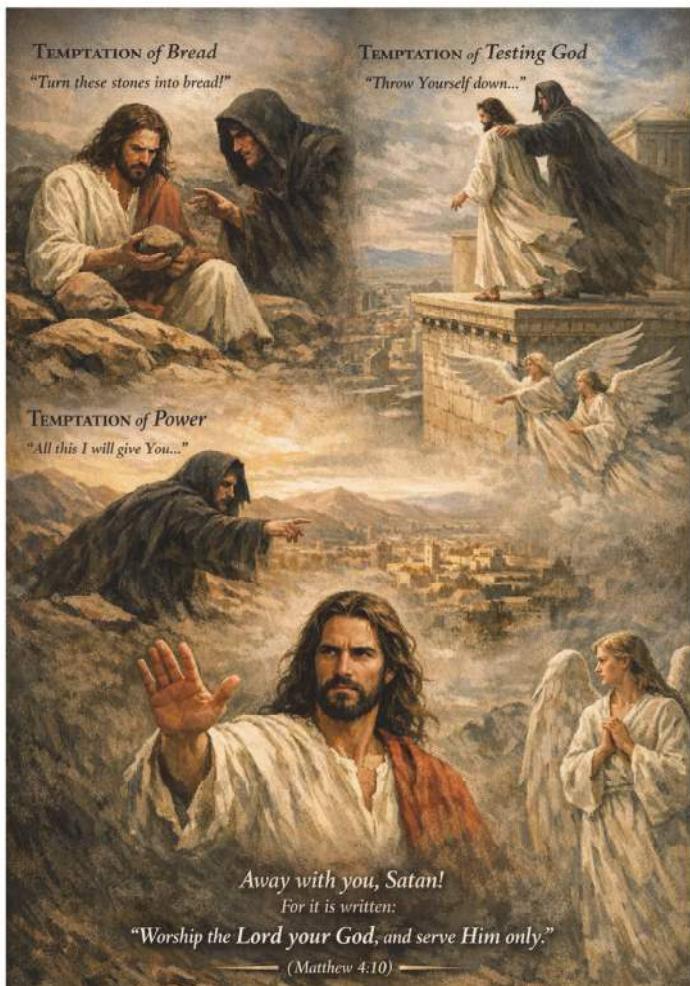
If you recall, in the section of Matthew’s Gospel just before today’s segment, at Jesus’s Baptism in the Jordan, *“The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove and rested on him,”* and a voice from heaven was heard to say, **“This is my Beloved Son.”** This is who Jesus is, **“This is my Beloved Son”** (Mt 3: 17). In his own home town of Nazareth, people see Jesus as *“the Son of Mary, the Son of Joseph the carpenter...as a prophet.”* There is confusion and denial about his identity

Even among his disciples there is confusion, illustrated in **Mt’s Gospel 16: 13-16**, when Jesus asked his disciples, **“Who do people say I am?”** One of the disciples, answering for the rest said, **“Some people think that you are John the Baptist; others think you are Elijah; still others think you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets,”** - a quick 1st century Gallup poll.

Jesus, then, asks his immediate disciples, **“But, who do you say I am?”** Peter, answering for the rest said, **“You are the Messiah, the Son of God.”** Jesus blesses Peter for his answer. Jesus, then, begins to predict his Passion: **“Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.”** Peter took Jesus aside and **began to rebuke him, ‘God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.’** Jesus, quick to react, admonishes Peter, **“Get behind me Satan. You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”**

Not unlike his disciples in the first century, followers of Jesus today, fashion a Jesus of their own making, referenced by the philosopher/theologian, **Blaise Pascal**, when he stated, **“God made us to his image and likeness and, we returned the compliment”** – we fashion a God of our own making. We see an exaggerated example of this in the popular rock opera, **“Jesus Christ Superstar,”** in words uttered by Herod in **Herod’s Song**, humanizing the person of Jesus, **“If you are so cool, why don’t you walk across my swimming pool?”** There are attempts to redefine who Jesus is today in schools and universities, in the media, in podcasts – **a kind of Cultural Jesus** – affecting our own understanding of who Jesus is – today. We need to do what Jesus did for his **two disciples on the Road to Emmaus**, who were leaving the Church: **“Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures”** (Luke 24: 27). Jesus, not only **“opened the scriptures”** to them, he **“opens the scriptures”** to us, also. What does God, in a vision, say to **Peter, James and John, on Mount Tabor**, when Jesus was transfigured in their sight, just before they enter Jerusalem, where Jesus would be put to death as a common criminal, **“This is my Beloved Son... listen to him.”** Words echoed by the great 5th Century Scripture Scholar, **Jerome**, when he stated, **“Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Jesus.”**

What should I “give-up” for Lent? “Tune-out the many distracting “voices:” Limit the use of your iPhone, TV, podcasts, social media, etc., and, **“open the scriptures... listen to Jesus.”**



1st Sunday of Lent: The Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness

After his Baptism, in today's Gospel, **"Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil"** (Mt 4: 1 – 11)

The **"desert"** is a quiet place where one can be alone with God. It is important to create a **quiet space** in our lives during Lent – a **'desert experience.'** So, there is the need to **turn off iPhones, modify TV watching and, cut back on distracting activities.**

The **'Desert,' a quiet place, is also a place of inner struggle**, as with Jesus' struggle during the 3 temptation scenes. Plan to go to **Lent Communal Penance Service**.

"Quiet time" alone gives us the opportunity to **examine issues in our lives** which need attention and redress in our relationship with Jesus. Then, we can take the advice of Jesus in response to his Tempter:

"One does not live on bread alone

but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."

The **"word from the mouth of God"** suggests 3 practices for the season of Lent (Mt 6: 1 – 21):

3 Lent Practices (Matthew 6: 1 – 21): *"Prayer... Fasting... Almsgiving..."*

Prayer:

Weekday Mass – 8 a.m.

Stations of the cross, Friday, 5 p.m.

Prayer Group meeting, Thursday, John Bosco Bldg., 5:00 P.M.

Personal Prayer alone or with your family

Fasting:

Fridays of Lent – abstain from meat once you are **14 years old or older.**

Participate in Lent CRS Operation Rice Bowl: During the 6 weeks of Lent, place the Rice Bowl on the family dining room table; eat a frugal meal one day-a-week for the 6 weeks of Lent – **perhaps, Friday** – and place the savings from the frugal meal in the Rice Bowl, which you can turn in to the Parish at the end of the 6 weeks of Lent. Proceeds will be used to feed hungry in U.S.

Almsgiving:

Pledge your support to the 2026 Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA). OLG Goal: \$132,000

Support the Church Service Center Collection, which assists the poor of Avon Park.

Return proceeds from Rice Bowl to Parish: funds will be used to feed the hungry in the U.S.



Annual OLOG Women's Guild Tour of Tables

Wednesday, March 4th, 2026

Ladies Gather 12:00 P.M. – Lunch at 1:00 P.M.

OLOG Grogan Center

595 E. Main Street, Avon Park, Fl., 33825. Tour of Tables

Luncheon Tickets: \$15.00, Contact; Debbie Augusta - 863-991-1020



En la segunda lectura San Pablo establece varias conexiones importantes: entre el pecado y la muerte, entre Adán y Jesús, entre la obediencia y la desobediencia.

El pecado no es solo la muerte espiritual, también la muerte física. Todos estamos sujetos a la muerte en algún momento, incluso si no hemos pecado. A veces, la causa es inmediata, como un conductor borracho que causa la muerte de una persona inocente. Un pecado menos grave puede ser una pequeña "muerte" cuando nos hace sentir que no estamos tan cerca de Dios o causa problemas serios.

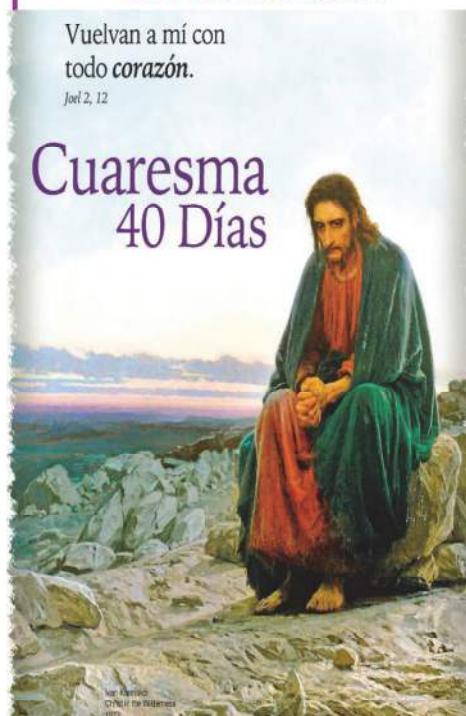
Adán fue el primero en traer el pecado y la muerte al mundo. Jesús es el primero en traer perdón con su muerte en la cruz. Si todos somos hijos e hijas de Adán, también somos hijos de Dios, ya que Jesús nos enseñó a llamar a Dios nuestro Padre. En el Evangelio, Satanás tenta a Jesús a convertir piedras en pan, le muestra una manera fácil de alimentar a la gente. Pero Jesús elige un camino mejor, cuando nos alimenta consigo mismo en la Eucaristía. El diablo dice que Jesús puede arrojarse del templo como una forma dramática de atraer seguidores; Jesús se deja colgar de la cruz para atraer a la gente. Satanás promete los reinos del mundo si Jesús lo adora. Pero Jesús eligió ser coronado de espinas y recibir su reino al resucitar de entre los muertos. --Tom Schmidt

PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Vuelvan a mí con todo *corazón*.

Jer 2, 12

Cuaresma 40 Días



Salmo 51:10 Crea en mí, oh
Dios, un corazón limpio,
Y renueva un espíritu recto
dentro de mí.

Retiro de Cuaresma para hombres y mujeres

Febrero 22, 2026 (Hombres)

y

Marzo 1, 2026 (Mujeres)

8am-4pm

Nuestra Señora de la Gracia
595 E Main St Avon Park FL
33825

CUARESMA TIEMPO DE
AYUNO, ORACIÓN Y LIMOSNA

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

Salón San Juan Bosco

Para Información

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



GRUPO DE ORACIÓN

“Santísima Trinidad”

Este Jueves 7:00pm

Misa Para Los Enfermos

Para Mas Información

863-448-6869 / 863-528-8267



MASS INTENTIONS**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21**

8:00 a.m. Mass.
 4:00 p.m. + A. J. Grant by Mom & Dad.
 + Charles Quinn by
 Constance Quinn.
 7:00 p.m. + Jose Cruz & Maria DeJesus
 by Adela Rodriguez.

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 22
 8:00 a.m. Birthday – Evelyn Barcina by Family.
 + Penny Irilli by Frank Irilli.
 10:30 a.m. Richard & Barbara Gaskell by Julie & Rick.

MONDAY

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY

8:00 a.m. Evily Peros by Kevin Bouffard.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25

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

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26

8:00 a.m. + Felix Lopez by Fania Lopez.

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 27
 8:00 a.m. + Charlie Brennan by Vincent Maher.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

8:00 a.m. Mass.
 4:00 p.m. + Humberto Ramirez by Ofelia Ramirez.
 7:00 p.m. + Juanita Pagan by Teresa Torres.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who made the Valentine Dinner/Dance a great success. Thank you member of: Knights of Columbus; Women's Guild; Confirmation 1 & Confirmation 2 classes; Buffalucca; Avon Park Champion Club; California Toe Jam Band; Office Staff.; Social Committee.

Judy Nugent, Chairman

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	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	Harold Raccine
Paul Repa	Joan Reetz	Brenda Buergi
Joe Deyo	Jackie & Steven	

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

AVON PARK

The free Income Tax Service at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church , 595 E. Main Street, Avon Park will be preparing Federal and State tax returns on Tuesdays and Thursdays from February 3rd (**Excluding February 5th**) through April 15th. Tax appointments will be prepared by appointment only. Tax appointments can be made in person at the Grogan Center any Tuesday or Thursday beginning January 20th and 22nd only between 9:00 a.m. and noon, and through the tax season starting February 3rd to April 15th. For questions call Site Coordinator Linda Pomeroy, 863-452-7641. Please **DO NOT CALL** Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, as they cannot assist you.



Staff & Ministries

Administrative Assistant

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Mike DeRosa

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Music Director

Gene Ryan
mee@generyan.com

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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



Ladies Guild Strawberry Festival

Sunday, February 22nd

Grogan Center

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Strawberry Milkshake \$5.00 Each.

**All Bake Sale items
Feature Strawberries**

We'll have plenty of strawberry shortcakes, shakes and scoops of delicious strawberry ice cream and an assortment of baked goods also. It's a wonderful opportunity for to meet other parishioners.



Church Service Center collection – Sunday, March 1

We invite & encourage you to bring non-perishable food to Church to all masses next weekend. A 2nd collection will be taken to assist with electric, water bills & rent payments. **Thank you.**

Stations of the Cross Friday, 5:00 P.M.



OLG Fish Bake
5:30 – 7:00 P.M.
Grogan Center
\$12 per person

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Our Lady of Grace's Sunday Bulletin

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