

# Our Lady of



595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



## 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

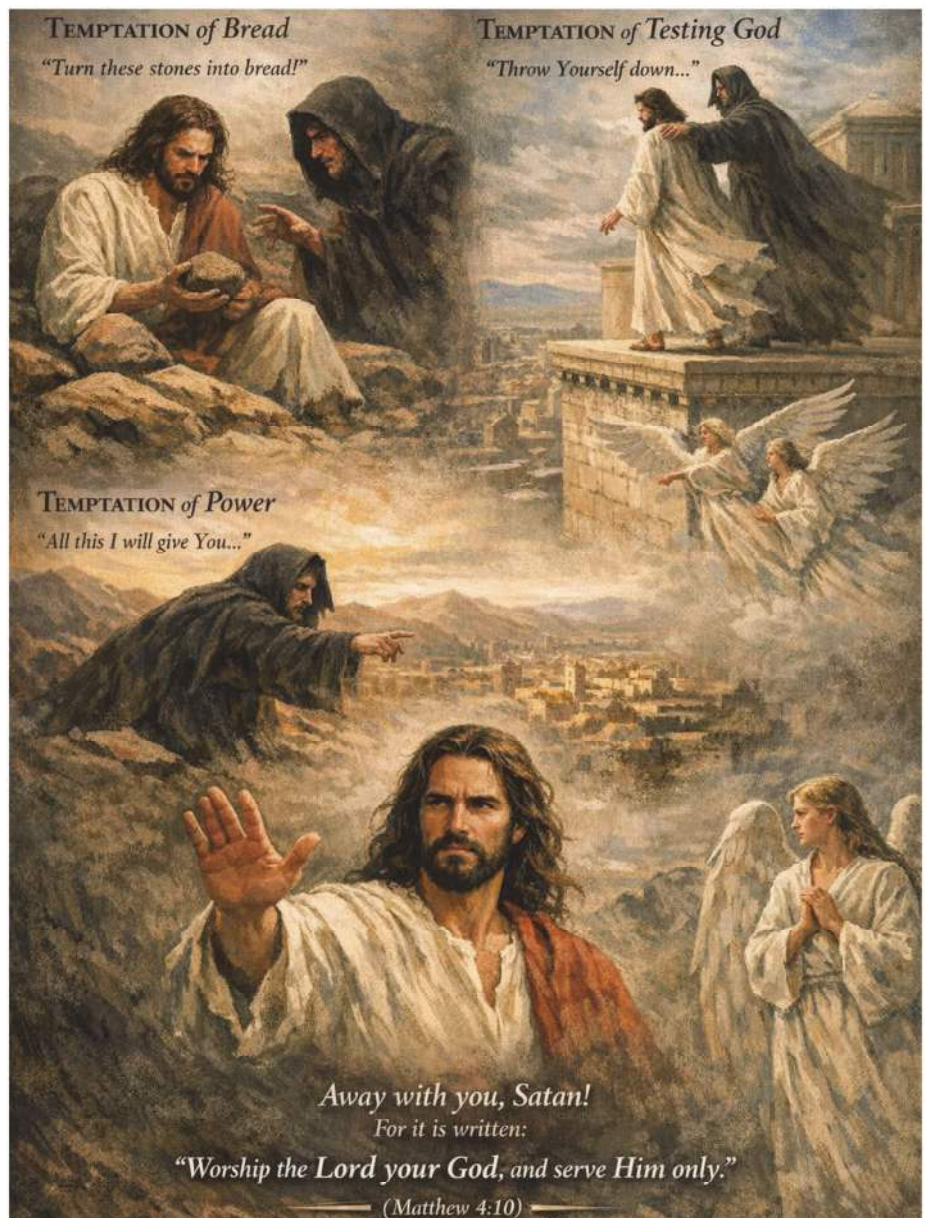
### First Friday

Mass and Holy Hour  
8 AM

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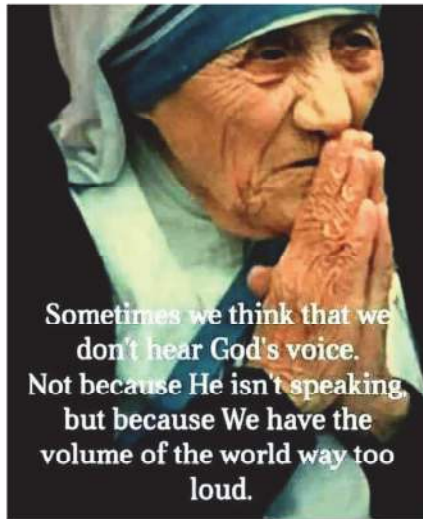
**1st Sunday of Lent**

**February 22, 2026**



**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

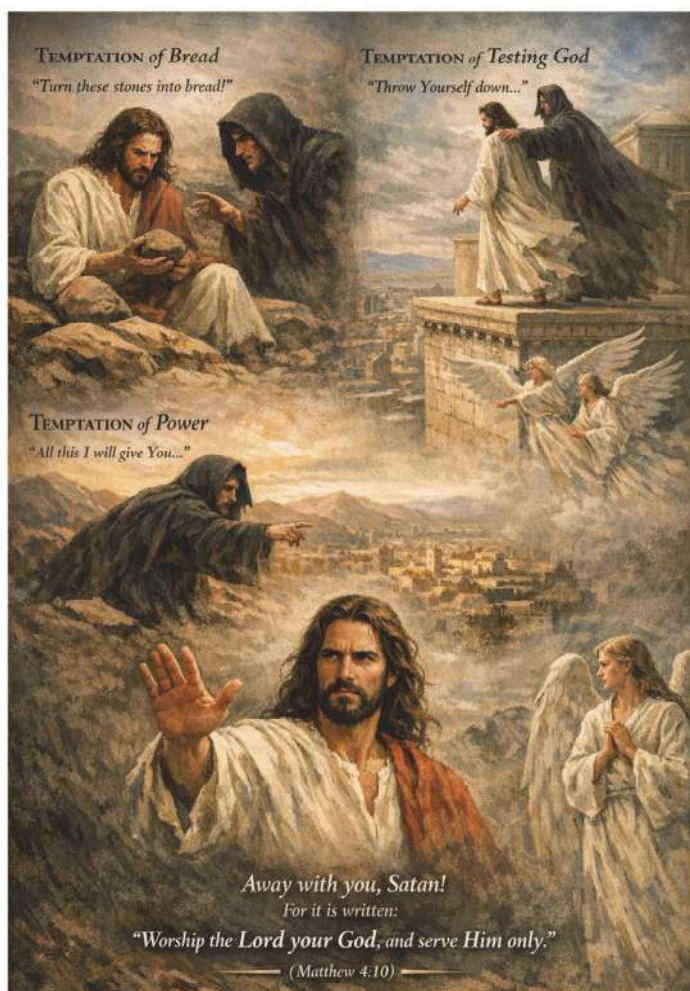
Even among his disciples there is confusion, illustrated in **Mt’s Gospel 16: 13-16**, when Jesus asked his disciples, **“Who do people say I am?”** One of the disciples, answering for the rest said, **“Some people think that you are John the Baptist; others think you are Elijah; still others think you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets,”** - a quick 1<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.”**





## 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

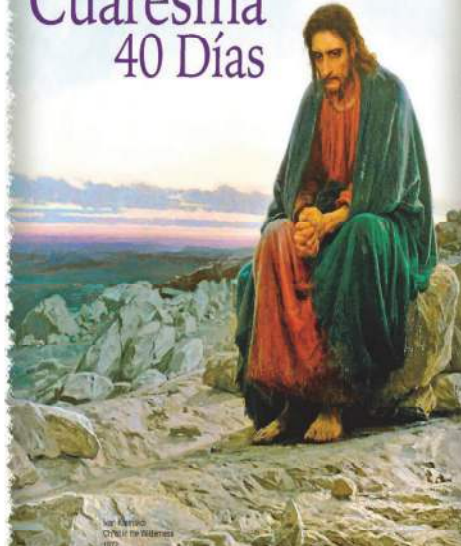
Adán fue el primero en traer el pecado y la muerte al mundo. Jesús es el primero en traer perdón con su muerte en la cruz. Si todos somos hijos e hijas de Adán, también somos hijos de Dios, ya que Jesús nos enseñó a llamar a Dios nuestro Padre. En el Evangelio, Satanás tienta a Jesús a convertir piedras 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 arrojar 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.

Joel 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 Barcinas  
 by Family.  
 + Penny Irilli by Frank Irilli.  
 10:30 a.m. Richard & Barbara Gaskell  
 by Julie & Rick.

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 23**

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24**

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; Cailifornia  
 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 Reiser	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

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



## Ladies Guild Strawberry Festival

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**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 week-end. A 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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Your Parish in  
Your Will**

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