

Our Lady of



Grace

Catholic Parish



595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time January 25, 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

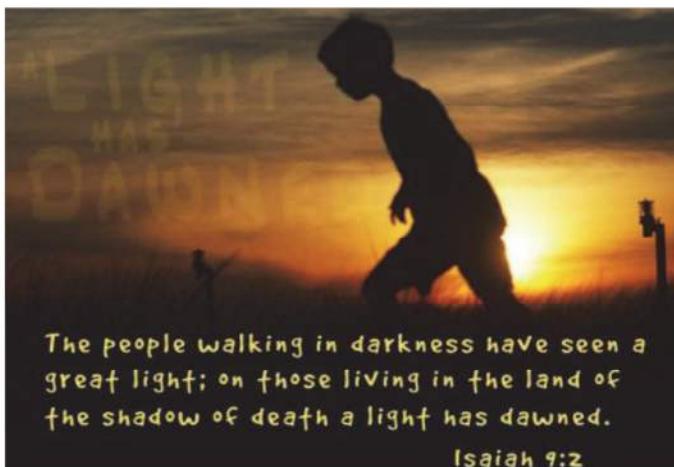
First Friday
Mass and Holy Hour
8 AM

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Jesus called to them “Follow me...”

“As he was walking by the sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called **Peter, & his brother Andrew**, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. **He said to them, ‘Come after me, & I will make you fishers of men.’** At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, **James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John**. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. **He called them, and immediately they left their boat & their father & they followed him.**” (Mt 4: 12 – 15).

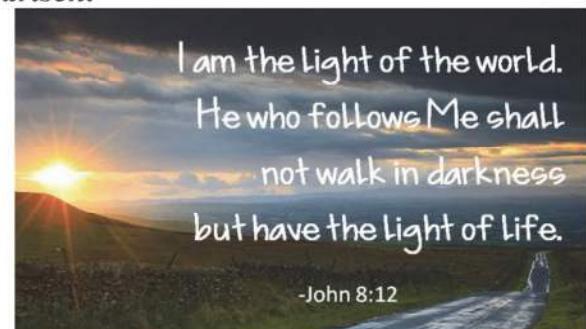


Jesus is ‘light’ in the midst of ‘darkness.’

Two of the twelve tribes of Israel, **Zebulun and Naphtali**, which were located in the Northern part of Israel, might well have made the words from **Simon and Garfunkel** their own 700 years before the coming of the Messiah: **“Hello darkness, my old friend.”** They lived close to the **“district of the Gentiles,”** a reference to their proximity to a hostile country, Assyria, which attacked them, leading to the prophet Isaiah referring to them as a **“people who lived in darkness”** - gloom and doom.

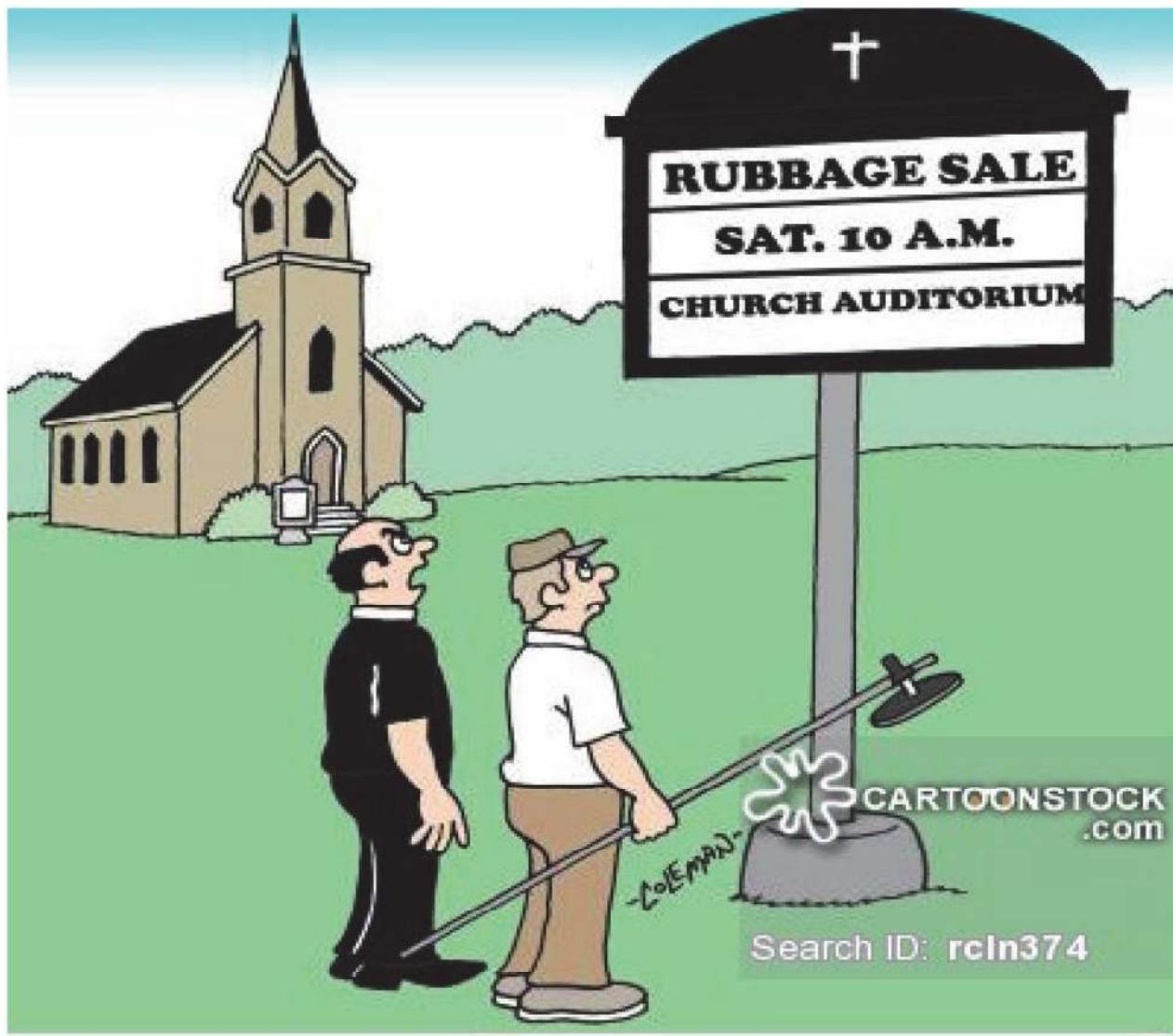
Then, the **prophet Isaiah**, announces joyful news: **“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.”** Jesus references that passage in today’s Gospel (**Matthew 4: 12 – 23**) when he moved to Capernaum, which is in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, and **Jesus himself becomes “the light shining in the midst of darkness and gloom.”** He is the **“light [that] has arisen.”**

Time and time again, **Jesus refers to himself as “the light of the world,”** bringing hope to those of us who may feel like we are going through our own “dark night of the soul.” In John (8:2) Jesus tells us, **“I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in dark, but will have the light of life.”**



The prologue in John’s Gospel begins with **“In the beginning was the Word...and the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”** **The birth of the child Jesus is a “new beginning.”** It was a “new beginning” in the lives of Mary and Joseph; in the lives of the shepherds and the wise men; in the life of John the Baptist; and, finally, in the lives of the fishermen whom Jesus **“called to follow me,”** - in today’s Gospel, Peter, Andrew, James and John. 17 young men in the Diocese of Venice accepted Jesus’ call **“to follow me.”** We see the state and challenge of the **“Harvest”** in **“The Lord’s Vineyard”** in the U.S. in the next page.

The invitation is to embrace Jesus and follow his way by becoming his disciples. If we do so, our lives will indeed be filled with **“light”** and **“rejoicing”** even in the midst of the **“dark night.”** It is up to us to respond. In Jn 8:12, Jesus tells us, **“I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in dark, but will have the light of life.”** Stewardship is a **“way of life”** that puts Jesus at the center. In coming to know him, we come to know who we are and what our **“mission”** is. Let us look to Jesus our **“light”** in the midst of **“darkness”** and let us respond generously and live accordingly – the **“new beginning”** ushered in by the birth of Jesus can and will become a **“new beginning”** in my life & in the lives of those who welcome him. As the Italians say, **‘Avanti.’**



" THAT'S SUPPOSED TO SAY ' RUMMAGE SALE ' ..."

2026 Ladies Guild Annual Rummage Sale

Friday (8 A.M. – 3 P.M.), January 30th,

Saturday (8 A.M. – 2 P.M.), January 31st

Where? Grogan Center

We are in need of many donated items – preferably quality items – No junk please.

**We need many volunteers to help: you are needed & welcome
Tuesday thru Saturday – great opportunity to meet and work
With fellow parishioners.**

**Drop off items, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
January 27th, 28th and 29th - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Information: Debbie Augusta, (863) 991-1020



Valentine's Day
Dinner & Dance
OLG Annual St. Valentine's Dinner-Dance



When? Saturday, February 14th, 2026

Time: Doors open 5 p.m.: Serve Dinner, 6 p.m

Followed by Dinner-dance.

Cost: \$50 per person.

Information: Judy Nugent, (863) 385-8883

Band: California-Toe-Jam-Band



Dance-to-your-hearts-content



Vocation Awareness Weekend: March 7 - 9

Discover what the seminarian life is all about during the weekend of March 7-9 at St. John Vianney College Seminary, 2900 SW 87th Ave, Miami. Participants will travel together for a weekend of fellowship, prayer and fun. Speak with seminarian students and teachers about their journey. Transportation is provided. For questions: **Fr Alexander Price, Vocations Director**, or, **Lina Johnson, 941-486-4720, or, johnson@dioceseofvenice.org**.

Pints with a Priest

- Catholic singles in their 30s, 40s and 50s are invited on **Saturday, January 31** to **"The Vocation to Love: God's Plan for the Single Seeking Marriage,"** featuring Fr. Mark Harris, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Naples. The event will be from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at **Bone Hook Brewery, 1514 Immokalee Rd, Unit 106** in Naples. No need to register.

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18 – 25, 2026

In his farewell address at the Last Supper (**John 15 – 17**), Jesus prayed: "... **for those who will believe in me ... that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you...**" **Why?** "...**that the world may believe that you sent me**" (Jn17:2).

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) ... invites all to celebrate the annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25**. This week provides an opportunity to join together and pray as Jesus did "**that they may all be one.**" (John 17:21)



Somos Teófilo, Amados por Dios

San Lucas inicia con un mensaje a Teófilo. Se sabe poco sobre esta figura, pero sabemos que su nombre griego, Teófilo, significa “amigo de Dios” o “amado por Dios”, una persona en particular en un momento particular de la historia, pero también estaba escribiendo para ti y para mí, para que podamos ver “la verdad de lo que se [nos] ha enseñado”.

Jesús lee de Isaías: “El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí, porque me ha ungido para llevar a los pobres la buena nueva...” Despúes de leer, Jesús dice “Hoy mismo se ha cumplido este pasaje de la Escritura que acaban de oír”.

Deténganse en ese momento durante unos minutos. Dos milenios después, nosotros, también amados por Dios, tenemos la gracia de leer la misma historia, de vivir el mismo momento para que también podamos ver “la verdad de lo que se [nos] ha enseñado”. Pon tu nombre, y ánade “amado/a por Dios.” — Pamela Kavanaugh



PROGRAMA DE EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Edificio MacDonald

Grados PreK - 6 Domingos

9:00 a 10:15am

Grados 7 - 12 Miércoles

6:00 a 8:00pm

Preguntas/Información

Mayra Donan 863-453-7537

ADULTOS

Edificio Juan Bosco

Domingos 9:00 a 10:15am

Para ser miembros plenos de la Iglesia en la fe católica, fomentar la conversión y ayuda a recibir los sacramentos de iniciación Bautismo, Confirmación, Eucaristía.

Preguntas/Información

Florentino Perada 863-840-4533

Juan XXIII

Jueves 7:00pm

Salón Juan Bosco

Para Información

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



**MISA de
ORACIÓN
POR LOS ENFERMOS**

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN

“Santísima Trinidad”

Jueves Enero 29 7:00pm en la Iglesia

Para Información

863-448-6869 / 863-528-8267

VENTA DE ARTÍCULOS

Pulguero Bajo Aire

Viernes Enero 30 de 8am a 3pm

Sábado Enero 31 de 8am a 2pm

Salón Parroquial Grogan

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY JANUARY 24

4:00 p.m. Debra Charles by Martha Worley.
+ Ryan Eichstadt by John & Sandra Eichstadt.
+ Jose Ordaz by Maria Ordaz.

SUNDAY JANUARY 25

8:00 a.m. + Suzanne Rochon by Phyllis Taylor.
Glen & Florence Kegler by Gwen Kegler.
+ Deceased members of the Nugent Family by Judy Nugent.

MONDAY JANUARY 26

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY JANUARY 27

8:00 a.m. Albert Schneider by Judy Heiden.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28

8:00 a.m. + Mary Louise Oleary by Terry Oleary.

THURSDAY JANUARY 29

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

FRIDAY JANUARY 30

8:00 a.m. Larry DuPraw by Alice DuPraw.

SATURDAY JANUARY 31

4:00 p.m. + Dorothy Smith by Rose Mary.
7:00 p.m. + Felix Lopez by Fania Lopez.

VALENTINE DINNER/DANCE

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.

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	Joan Trace
Jan Raccine	Harold Raccine	Paul Repa
Joan Reetz	Brenda Buergi	

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

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Mike DeRosa

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Music Director

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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

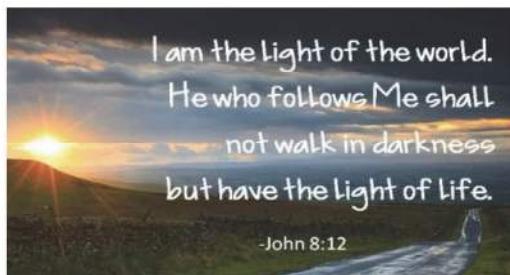
Parish Council

President

Betty Anne Lee
863-873-7176



OLG Parish 2026 Diocesan Catholic Faith Appeal Goal is \$132,000



In today's 1st reading, the prophet **Isaiah (8:23 – 9:3)**, announces joyful news: **"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light..."** In

today's Gospel (**Mt 4: 12 – 23**) Jesus refers to himself as **"the light shining in the midst of darkness and gloom."**

The Mission of every disciple of Jesus is to allow Jesus to reach out through them to be a **"light shining in the midst of darkness and gloom"** in our time, among those hurting & with a variety of needs in our midst, in our parishes and Diocese.

The 2026 Diocesan Catholic Faith Appeal is the most effective outreach for OLG Parishioners, to do this.

What is the most pressing outreach needs and, for what is its proceeds in the 2026 CFA used for?

The Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) is a Diocesan-wide fundraising effort to support programs such as: **Pastoral Outreach & Ministries; missions, poor parishes and convents; Catholic Charities; Evangelization; Worship; Respect Life; Peace & Social Justice; Vocations & Seminarians; Catholic Education; Diocesan administrative support services; etc.** On an annual basis, parishes in the Diocese of Venice make a required contribution to financially support these efforts. The Catholic Faith Appeal is a means by which all parishioners can take part in helping their Parish to meet its contribution. **A Parish Catholic Faith Appeal goal is determined by the income of the Parish and is not based on the number of registered families because our population grows in the winter months from northern visitors. This greatly adds to the success of the Appeal.**

How much should I give?

As stewards, we should take the time to **reflect on our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure. Giving back to God, either through contributions to our parish or the CFA, should involve a sacrifice, one that reflects God's generosity to us individually. Your gift is a personal decision between you & God, & should be made after prayerful consideration.** We will provide additional information in next week's bulletin and, prepare you, over the next few Sundays, **to make a one-time, or, a more generous 11-month-pledge-commitment.**

Diocesan is proud to be printing



Our Lady of Grace's Sunday Bulletin

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