

Our Lady of



Grace

Catholic Parish



595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 1, 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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Catholic Faith Appeal

"Tell them to
do good...be
generous, ready
to share." (1 Timothy 6:18)



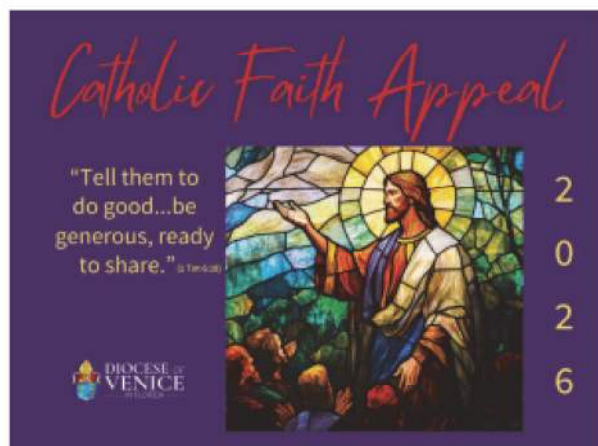
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OLG 2026 Catholic Faith Appeal Goal \$132,000

**"Tell them to do good... be generous, ready to share."
(1 Timothy 6:18)**

The Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) provides an invitation to respond to this call by giving of our resources to help others. In addition, the CFA serves as an opportunity to share in the good works taking place every day throughout the Diocese of Venice. Bishop Frank J. Dewane thanks all for your support of this annual appeal.

We can't do what we do without you!



OLG 2026 CFA Goal is \$132,000
"Tell them to do good . . . be generous, ready to share." (1 Tim 6:18)

The Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7) has had a profound impact. **Leo Tolstoy** was captivated by the sermon and its nonviolent precepts. It also inspired **Gandhi's** nonviolent resistance of British rule in India & **Martin Luther King, Jr.'s** struggle for civil rights in America. Such is the legacy of a simple story of a sermon, set on a hilltop in Galilee.

The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' major discourse in Matthew's Gospel (Mt 5 – 7), which begins with the Beatitudes (Mt 5: 1-12), depict the chief characteristics and dispositions his disciples are to possess, especially toward those in need.

It's appropriate that we have this Gospel on a Sunday, in which **Bishop Dewane echoes Jesus' appeal for support**, on behalf of those with a variety of acute needs, to the 62 parishes and 18 missions which make up 10 county Diocese of Venice, **on 2026 Catholic Faith Appeal Sunday**.

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.**

The Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) is a means by which all parishioners, including Our Lady of Grace, 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. **Northern visitors are invited and encouraged to participate in the CFA** for the period of time for which they are here, normally ranging between 3 – 6 months.

OLG Parish Goal for 2026 is \$132,000.00: How much should I give?

Your gift is a **personal decision between you and God** and should be made after prayerful consideration. **"God loves a generous gift-giver."**

There are 2 kinds of Gift-givers: 1. One-time gift-givers: 2. Pledge monthly payments

1. **One time gift:** For year starting January 1, 2026, ending on December 31, 2026.

\$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 Other

2. **Pledge monthly payments:** payable by 10th of each month, beginning Jan 10th thru Dec 10th, 2026. **Check payable to Diocese of Venice for Our Lady of Grace Parish.**

\$5,000 \$500 each month, Jan thru Dec 31, 2026, payable before 10th of each month.

"Tell them to do good . . . be generous, ready to share." (1 Tim 6:18)

After prayerful consideration, we invite and encourage you to make your donation or commitment over the next few Sundays. Thank you and may God bless and reward you.



The Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7) The Beatitudes (Mt 5:1-12)

The Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7) has had a profound impact. **Leo Tolstoy** was captivated by the sermon and its nonviolent precepts. It also inspired **Gandhi's** nonviolent resistance of British rule in India & **Martin Luther King, Jr.'s** struggle for civil rights in America. Such is the legacy of a simple story of a sermon, set on a hilltop in Galilee.

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' major discourse in Matthew's Gospel. It is addressed primarily to his disciples. It expounds the basic attitudes Jesus' disciples are to have in relationship to God as their Father, to Jesus as their Lord, to one another as brothers and sisters, and to others, even their enemies. As God's children, they are to live differently from

others in the world and follow a standard that is nothing less than being *"perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Mt 5:48). Jesus' sermon begins with the *beatitudes* (Mt 5: 1-12), which depict the chief characteristics and dispositions his disciples are to possess.

Jesus' sermon represents a reversal of values – from the secular to the sacred – turning the world's standards for happiness upside down. If you were to ask the average American what 8 blessings, they wanted most in life, they probably would say # 1 - *money* – to win the *Mega-1-billion-dollar lottery*. In the **1st Beatitude**, Jesus says, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit,"* that is, those who are detached from their money. Why? Because theirs is a *kingdom* money can't buy. Jesus, in the **2nd Beatitude**, says, *"Blessed are they who mourn."* "Mourn" for what? For *"When bad things happen to good people,"* a book by a New York Rabbi, Rabbi Kushner, who lost a 14-year-old son; how he was *"comforted"* by his belief in God, especially reading the book of Job, and, by the support of so many caring friends and congregants. The **3rd Beatitude** – *"Blessed are the meek"* – *"the meek"* are the lowly who patiently wait on the Lord amid their afflictions and refrain from responding in anger or with force against those who wrong them. They rely on God, not on their own strength – **"meek" does not mean weak**. It is a **"meek"** – a virtuous - **Mahatma Gandhi** who took on British power in winning India's independence. It is a **Dr. MLK**, whose birthday we celebrated recently, using non-violence – being **"meek"** – to win civil rights for Afro-Americans. It is an inner strength which comes from a trust in God. The **4th Beatitude** is *"Blessed are the righteous, they will be satisfied."* They are those, described by **Pope Benedict XVI**, in his book, *Jesus of Nazareth*, *"who are not content with things as they are and refuse to stifle the restlessness of heart that points man towards something greater."* Jesus says they will receive their hearts desire: *"they will be satisfied,"* Jesus continues with the **5th Beatitude**, *"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."* It emphasizes the reciprocal nature of mercy.

God will show mercy to us to the extent that we show mercy to others. **Nelson Mandela**, when he became President of South Africa, after unjustly spending 27 years in prison, was able to heal a nation from apartheid by his example of mercy and forgiveness. Israel and Palestine have been demanding justice for 70 years and, unlike **Gandhi, MLK and Mandela**, are refusing to give each other mercy and forgiveness. The **6th Beatitude**, *Blessed are the pure of heart for they will see God*, goes to the heart of the biggest addiction facing our culture today, the pursuit of pleasure – sex, drugs, drink, iPhone – it's our biggest *"turn-on."* The *"pure of heart"* are those who love, not lust over others. *"They will see God"* with the eyes of the heart. Pascal describes it: *"The heart has its own reasons for believing which are beyond reason."* The **7th Beatitude**, *Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.* Jesus came to give us peace with ourselves because we have peace with God instead of with the world, the flesh, and the devil, with greed and lust and pride. We are called *"children of God"* because of our intimate relationship with the Father. The **8th Beatitude** refers to those who are *persecuted for the sake of righteousness* like the prophets and martyrs in the Old and New Testaments, and Christians throughout history. Christ's faithful followers today like **Maximillian Kolbe, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dr MLK, and Cardinal Zen** in China, experienced similar trials. Jesus promises that *"theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."*

In conclusion, the Beatitudes are specific instructions for Christ's committed followers. The persecuted are no longer *"they"* (5:10) but *"you"* (5:11), referring specifically to the disciples (5:1): *"Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you."* Where Jesus spoke of people being persecuted for righteousness' sake (v10), he now refers to his disciples being *"persecuted because of me"* (v11). Living the Beatitudes is imitating Jesus' life. In imitation of him, Jesus summons his disciples to be the *"salt of the earth"* and *"light of the world,"* that the world *"May see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."*

St John Chrysostom invites us to ponder what the world would be like if the entire Christian community lived in imitation of Jesus, in the words of St. Paul, *"I live now no longer I but Jesus lives in me:"*

"Assuredly, there would be no non-believer, if Christians took care to be what we ought to be; if we obeyed God's precepts, if we bore injuries without retaliation, if when cursed we blest, if we rendered good for evil. For no man is so savage a wild beast that he would not run forthwith to the worship of the true religion, if we saw all Christians acting as I have said."

Let's give **St. Francis of Assisi** the final word: *"Preach the Gospel at all times and, if you must, use words,"* concluding with his prayer: *"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope and, where there is sadness, joy."* Jesus' challenge in the Sermon on the Mount is simple, *"What can I do to share God's love with the world?"* Let's get started. *"Avanti."*

The Sermon on the Mount is the lesson that Jesus teaches in the Gospel of Matthew.



The Sermon on the Mount is the most famous speech Jesus ever gave.

Cuarto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario Las Bienaventuranzas

¿De qué te sientes más orgulloso? A todos nos gusta ser el mejor en algo, o al menos muy bueno. Pero es un poco absurdo basar nuestro propio valor en lo que logramos.

El Evangelio de hoy sobre las *Bienaventuranzas* lo aclara aún más. Bienaventurados no solo los pobres, sino los pobres de espíritu; no solo los hambrientos, sino los que tienen hambre de justicia. En otras palabras, no se trata tanto de lo que haces, sino de lo que Dios hace a través de ti. Cuánto sabes es menos importante que cuánto conoces al Señor. No se trata tanto de dónde vives, sino de si Dios vive en ti.

En lugar de pedirle a Dios que mis proyectos sean un éxito, puedo pedirle ¿qué quiere Dios que haga? En lugar de leer revistas o blogs para impresionar a tus compañeros de trabajo con tu conocimiento del mundo, dedica tiempo a leer las Escrituras y a escuchar atentamente al Señor en la oración. En lugar de quejarte del gobierno o de tu parroquia, intenta ofrecer tu tiempo como voluntario. Y por todo el bien que hagas, acuérdate de agradecerle al Señor. —Tom Schmidt

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
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



Los Pobres serán
nuestro examen final



Cena y baile de San Valentín

¿Cuándo? Sábado, 14 de febrero de 2026

Hora: Puertas abren a las 5 p. m. Cena a las 6 p. m.

Seguido de cena-baile.

Costo: \$50 por persona.

Información: Judy Nugent, (863) 446-1841

Banda: California-Toe-Jam-Band

Juan XXIII
Jueves 7:00pm
Salón Juan Bosco
Para Información
Omar 863-205-0694 Elvin 863-853-0065



Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica
2670-2672
"Ven, Espíritu Santo"

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN

"Santísima Trinidad"

Iglesia

6:30pm Rosario / 7:00pm Grupo

Para Información

Hortencia 863-448-6869 / Adela 863-528-8267

MASS INTENTIONS**SATURDAY JANUARY 31**

4:00 p.m. + Dorothy Smith by Rose Mary.

7:00 p.m. + Felix Lopez by Fania Lopez.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1

8:00 a.m. + Lynne Myers by Elrie Myers.

10:30 a.m. + Suzanne Rochon by Phyllis Taylor.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 2

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3

8:00 a.m. + E. C. Cyriac by Son.
+ John Minardi.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4

8:00 a.m. + Henry Cooper by Terry Oleary.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5

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

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6

8:00 a.m. + Marthai Lukose by
Daughter.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7

4:00 p.m. Bert Grant by Randy Rhodes.

7:00 p.m. Sosa Family & Felipe Cruz.

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.

GENEALOGICAL MEETING

Will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 1:30 p.m., in the John Bosco Center. All are invited.

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

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



Church Service Center Collection: February 1

We invite and encourage you to bring non-perishable food to Church next weekend masses to help feed approximately 400 families, representing 1,000 poor neighbors in Avon Park. A **2nd collection** will be taken to assist those who come to the CSC, seeking financial assistance with water, electric and rent bills. Thank you and may God bless you.

Tax Aide Program: Offer Free Tax Service: Tax Aide, a free nationwide tax preparation service, will perform its free tax service at **OLG Church**, beginning the **1st Tuesday in February, February 3rd, 2026**. The free tax service will be **offered each Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Grogan Center**. Please do not call the Church office with questions. If you have tax related questions, **come to the Grogan Center & speak directly to one of the IRS certified Tax-Aide counselors, or, call Linda Pomeroy 607 434 8208**.

Anniversary Masses - All couples celebrating **25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50**, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an **Anniversary Mass** in their honor at **11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 14 at St. Leo the Great Parish**, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs and, at **St Thomas More Catholic Church**, 2506 Gulf Gate Dr., Sarasota, **Saturday, March 14th, at 11 A.M. Photos at both Churches 9:30 - 10:30 A.M. Contact your parish office – 453-4757 – to register for event you choose to attend.**

Tallahassee Trip-

Join the Diocese of Venice in Tallahassee in **February 10 - 12, 2026** for Catholic Days at the Capitol! All are welcome. Each year during the Florida legislative session, Catholics from across the state gather in Tallahassee to bring the light of faith to the public square and promote Catholic values through civic engagement. United with the Florida Bishops, participants advocate for the protection of human life and dignity as lawmakers shape Florida's laws for the common good. By making the trip to our state capitol and lifting our voices, Catholic Days pilgrims help make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of all Floridians.

Register by January 7!

Click here to register. Contact **Tavia Ames, 941-374-1068** with questions, or for more information.



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Our Lady of Grace's Sunday Bulletin

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