

# Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 28, 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

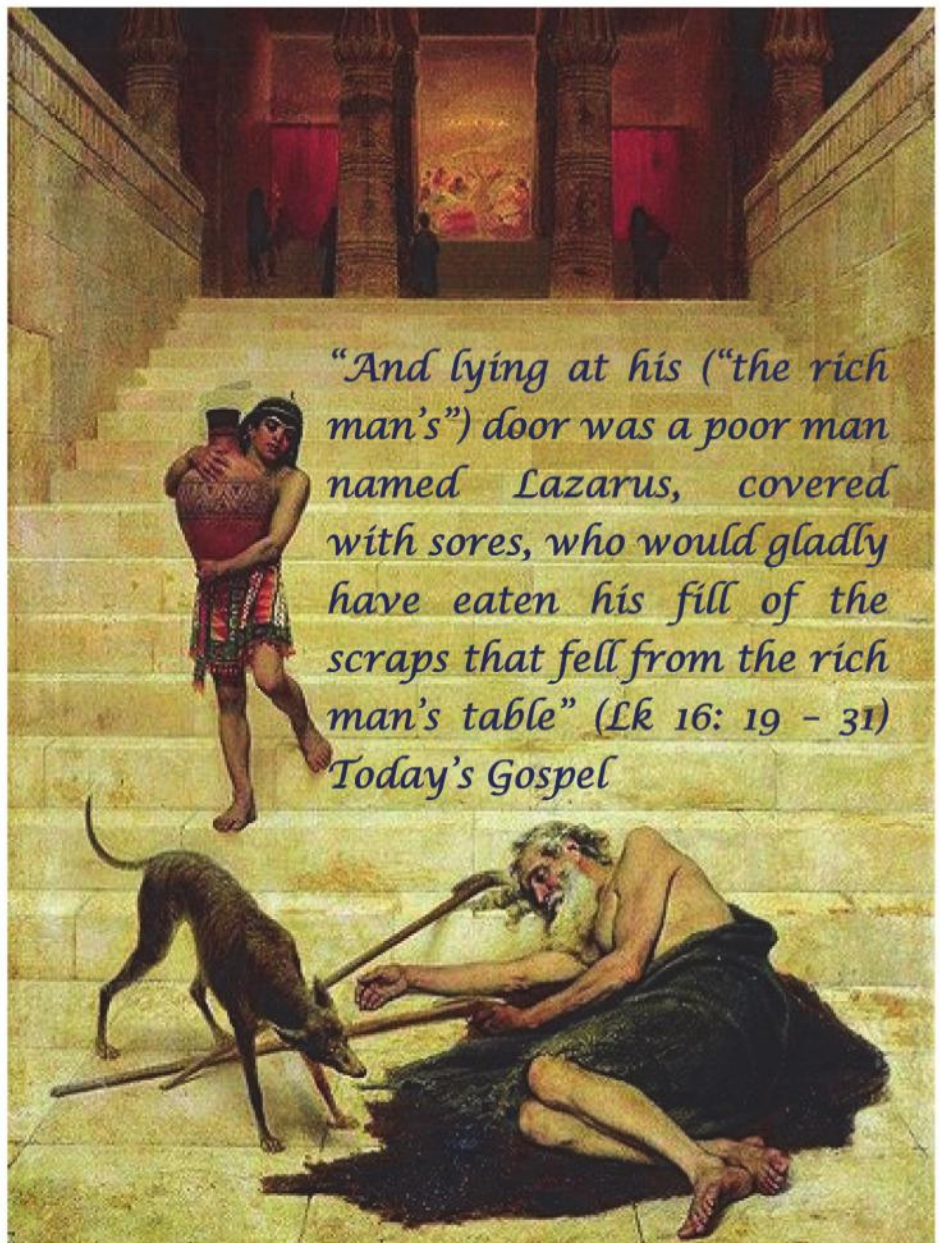
### Daily Mass

Tuesday-Friday  
8 AM

### First Friday

Mass and Holy Hour  
8 AM

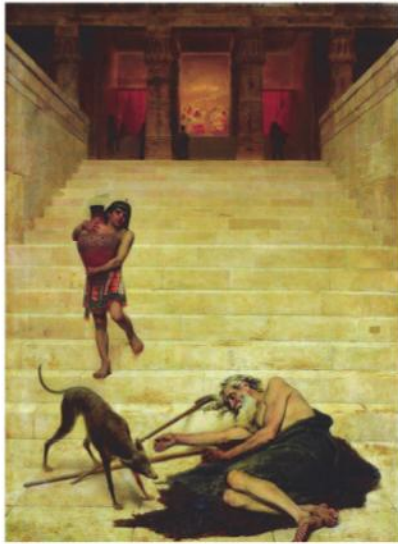
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*"And lying at his ('the rich man's') door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table" (Lk 16: 19 - 31)*  
*Today's Gospel*

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time





### The Rich Man and Lazarus:

There is a story told about a young boy, who lived in a small town, who heard that the Messiah had come. He became very excited. He ran from one house to another in the village square, announcing, with great enthusiasm, that the Messiah had come. The young boy rushed into the Rabbi's house, overlooking the village square, with the news, *"The Messiah has come."* Being a wise old Rabbi, he did not over-react. He, simply, went to the window; he peered down on the village square. With a tinge of sadness in his face, he turned to the young boy and, said, *"No, son, the Messiah has not come; because if he did, things would be different in the market place."*

**Jesus, in today's Gospel, illustrate with a parable,** what the Rabbi had just said to the young boy. **Jesus, in the Gospel, was speaking to the Pharisees;** they were the religious authorities of his day. **In the parable, he alludes to a rich man and, a poor man, Lazarus.** The rich man, dressed in Calvin Klein clothes of his day, eat at the best restaurants and, likely, lived in a gated community, **was not condemned for being rich.** He worked hard and with great enterprise to make his wealth.

#### Why then was he condemned?

**We refer to 2 different kinds of sin in the 'Confiteor'** in the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass; **sins of "Commission" and, sins of "Omission:"** *"I confess... that I have greatly sinned... in what I have done and what I have failed to do."* The rich was condemned, not for what he did to the poor man, **but what he didn't do to help him; he committed a sin of omission.** The rich man insulated himself from the poor man, even to the point of failing to give him the scraps that the house animals would pick up which fell from his table. The irony was, the neighborhood dogs gave the poor man more attention than the rich man – at least, they licked his wounds and sores.

The rich man replicates what the wealthy people of God did in **today's first reading from the prophet Amos.** The prophet Amos, at God's direction, spoke to the wealthy people of his day for *"lying on your beds of ivory... eating the best lamb and veal and washing it down with the most expensive wines..."* while failing - omitting - to lift a finger to help their poor brothers and sisters in need – they, like the rich man in the Gospel, were **guilty of a sin of omission.** They were consumed with **a standard of living and not with a standard of life.** **St Paul** goes to the heart of the issue in today's **2nd reading,** in his **letter to Timothy** when he **"charges"** Christians: ***"I charge you before God... to keep the commandments."***

**Mother (St) Teresa of Calcutta** – was asked on ABC TV by Barbara Walters what she taught of Catholics being allowed to receive communion in the hand, thinking that she might find it somewhat disrespectful. Mother Teresa responded that she liked the change. She said, *"I'm impressed with Catholics reaching out their hands with respect to touch the Body of Jesus in Holy Communion."* She continued, *"I haven't been as impressed with the same Catholics reaching out their hands with the same respect to touch the body of Jesus in the market place"* – exactly, the comment the Rabbi made to the young boy who excitedly told him that the Messiah had come.

**Question:** How do you respond to the monthly appeal to assist the local **Church Service Center?** Or, to the **2025 CFA appeal** by the bishop to assist those in need around the Diocese of Venice? Do today's Mass readings "speak" to us? And, how do we respond?





### Profile of typical new U.S. priests ordained in 2025

According to a 2025 survey by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) of Georgetown University and, the USCCB, the typical new U.S. priest ordained in 2025 is a 34-year-old cradle Catholic who regularly attended Eucharistic adoration and prayed the Rosary before entering the seminary.

The **“Ordination Class of 2025”** survey gathered data from 309 of the 405 men slated to be ordained in the U.S. this year. Key findings include:

#### Demographic profile

- Age: The average age at ordination is 34, with initial consideration of priesthood often occurring in the teenage years.
- Race/Ethnicity: The majority of new priests are Caucasian (69%), followed by Hispanic/Latino (12%), Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian (12%), and African/African American/Black (6%).
- National origin: 26% are foreign-born, with Mexico, Vietnam, and the Philippines being the top countries of origin.
- Family background: Most were baptized Catholic as infants and raised by their biological parents, with a significant number having both parents who were Catholic. 31% reported having a relative who was or is a priest or religious.

#### Formation and education

- Priesthood type: 80% are being ordained for a diocese, while 20% are joining a religious institute.
- Seminary location: The largest number studied in the Midwest (37%).
- Prior education: 63% completed an undergraduate or graduate degree before seminary, with common fields including philosophy, engineering, business, science, and math. 15% were home-schooled at some point.
- Work experience: 66% had full-time work experience, and 6% served in the U.S. armed forces.

#### Vocational discernment

- Religious encouragement: 89% were encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone in their lives, typically a priest, friend, or parishioner.
- Religious practices: Regular participation in Eucharistic Adoration (78%) and praying the Rosary (72%) were common. 73% served as an altar server.
- Spiritual inspiration: One ordinand mentioned being inspired by a Justin Bieber song and hearing the call to priesthood during prayer.
- Discouragement: 43% faced discouragement, often from friends or family members.

#### Ideological perspective

- An analysis suggests that most new priests identify as conservative or very conservative, focusing on their priestly role rather than social activism.
- Please pray for newly ordained priests, that they persevere and, for all priests.



### **The School of Religion re-opened Sept 3rd**

The School of Religion re-opened **Wednesday, September 3rd, for grades 7 - 12, 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.**

The School of Religion re-opened, **Sunday, September 7th for grades K - 6, 9:00 – 10:15 A.M.** It is important that children are registered before going to class.

**The Prayer of every parent for their children should be from the well-known words of the hymn:**

Open my **eyes**, Lord  
help me to see your face  
Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see

Open my **ears**, Lord  
Help me to hear your voice  
Open my ears, Lord  
help me to hear

Open my **heart**, Lord  
Help me to love like you  
open my heart, Lord  
Help me to love

Parents, register your children for the School of Religion so that ***“their eyes are opened to see the face of Jesus; their ears are opened to hear the voice of Jesus; and, their hearts are opened to love like Jesus.”***



### **The Knights of Columbus Meetings & Special Events**

The Knights of Columbus meet on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M.** in the Youth Center.

The K of C have a Social Meeting with a Pot-Luck-Supper on the **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 6:00 P.M. in the Grogan Center**, with the first Social Meeting on Tuesday, **September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.** All are welcome.



### **OLG Ladies Guild Meeting Dates for 2025/2026**

OLG Ladies monthly meetings have been changed to the **First Wednesday of the month**. OLG first monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, **October 1, 2025, in the Grogan Center.**

**Social hour at noon** is prior to our 1 pm meeting. **The Social hour** is an opportunity for new or returning members to get to know one another before the **general business meeting at 1:00 P.M.** Enjoy an afternoon of community and fellowship. The 1st event will be the **International Food Festival, Sunday, November 9, 11 A.M. – 2 P.M.**



## 26° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

La primera lectura suena como la de un entrenador preparando a su equipo para un gran partido. Este entrenador tiene metas mucho más altas. En lugar de buscar un campeonato de liga, busca la Fe, el Amor, la Paz, la Humildad.

**Batallamos** con sus mandatos de amar a los enemigos, poner la otra mejilla, perdonar todas las ofensas y tomar la cruz cada día.

**Buscamos** el Amor escuchando y luchando por el Evangelio. Sin necesidad de que todo salga como nosotros queramos, nos volvemos más pacientes con quienes no están de acuerdo con nosotros, o con las frustraciones y los problemas, nos esforzamos a ver a Jesús en cada persona.

**¿Y nosotros?** ¿Estamos en el partido o sentado en el banca? \_\_Tom Schmidt

## ¡Feliz día del Sacerdote!



**Muchas gracias por responder  
al llamado de Cristo y estar  
hoy aquí a nuestro lado**

**EL DECANATO ESTE**  
**RENOVACIÓN CARISMÁTICA C. H.**

Te invitan a vivir un  
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Somos los grupos de oración

- UNIDOS EN CRISTO** (San Pablo)
- NUEVA VIDA** (San Miguel)
- DIVINA MISERICORDIA** (Santos Mártires)
- CRISTO VIVE** (Nuestra Señora) (Reina, del cielo)
- DISCIPULOS DE DIOS** (San Pablo Jóvenes)
- SANTA CATALINA** (Santa Catalina)
- BETANIA** (Santa Margarita)
- SANTÍSIMA TRINIDAD** (Nuestra Señora de la gracia)

**Octubre 03 y 04 2025**  
Viernes de 6:00 pm a 9:00 pm  
Sábado de 8:00 am a 5:00 pm

**Our Lady of Grace  
Catholic Church**  
595 E Main St,  
Avon Park, FL 33825

## OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC CHURCH Rezando por Paz y Unidad

**10 de Octubre de 2025**  
8 am - 6:30 pm. Misa a las  
8 am, Exposición del  
Santísimo Sacramento, Rezo  
del Rosario a cada hora.  
Benedicción a las 6:30 p.m



**Programa de Educación Religiosa.** Grados Pre-K-6 Domingos de 9:00 a 10:15am. Grados K-12 Miércoles de 6:00 a 8:00pm en el Edificio McDonald. Preguntas/Información (863) 453-7537.

**GRUPO DE ORACIÓN "SANTISIMA TRINIDAD".** Se reúne los Jueves a las 7:00pm en la Iglesia. Rosario a las 6:30pm. Para información llamar/Texto 863-448-6869/863-528-8267.

**GRUPO JUAN XXIII.** Se reúne los Jueves a las 6:30 PM en el salón San Juan Bosco. Para información Llamar/Texto 863-205-0694 o 863-853-0065.

# **MASS INTENTIONS**

## **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27**

4:00 p.m. 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Mike & Mary Rand.

7:00 p.m. + Maria Ocasio & + Brigido Lugo by Norma & Rafael Lugo.

## **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28**

8:00 a.m. + Pauline Kegler by Keglars Family.

10:30 a.m. + Curtis & Magdala by Jerry and JoMarie Grinkiewicz.

## **MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29**

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

## **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30**

8:00 a.m. + George Gaa by Dennis Kellner.

## **WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1**

8:00 a.m. + Ann Moore by Dennis Kellner.

## **THURSDAY OCTOBER 2**

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

## **FRIDAY OCTOBER 3**

8:00 a.m. + Joan Neal & Tim Roche by Family.

## **SATURDAY OCTOBER 4**

4:00 p.m. + Glenn Hartsfield by Wife.

7:00 p.m. + Faride Sarmiento by Family.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Women's Guild Meeting**—October 1, 2025, at 12:00 noon for social hour. Meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Grogan Center.

**International Food Festival**—November 9, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Grogan Center. Tickets \$15.00 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    |
| Dale O'Leary      | Pat Anhock        | 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 Reiser      | 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.

# **HURRICANE PRAYER**

God, our Father, Creator and Lord of the Universe, You have set the earth on its foundation and all elements of nature obey your command. We humbly beseech you to keep us safe from all dangers and calm the storms that may threaten us. May we be secure in your loving protection and serve you always with grateful hearts. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.





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## Staff & Ministries

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### 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

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## Parish Council

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### President

Betty Anne Lee  
863-873-7176



## Order of Christian Initiation Begins Monday, October 6th, 7 p.m., in the Religious Ed Bldg.

### The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) -

will begin on **Monday, October 6, at 7 p.m.**, in the **LARGE ROOM of the Religious Ed Bldg.** The **OCIA** is a journey in faith, a journey in which we come to know Jesus in an intimate way, and how he is present in the Church, in the Sacraments, in the Mass, in the Scriptures, in prayer—both public & personal — & in everyone in need.

There is a danger that, as important as they are, we become preoccupied with customs and structures and forms of an institution like the Church, when in fact, the Church — the people of God — should make an encounter with Jesus come alive.

**Searchers** — Catholics, or, people of little or no faith — **are looking for a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus.** The key question in the Scriptures was put by Jesus to his disciples, **“Who do you say I am?”** The **OCIA** will address that question as Catholic believing community understands it.

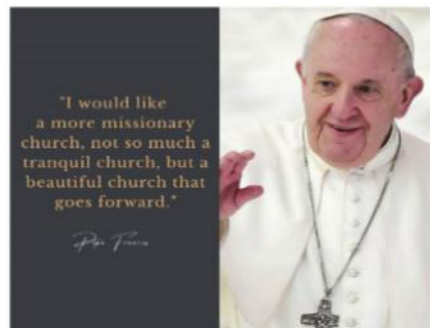
**Catholics need to reach out and invite:** Let's become a **“Mission Church”** and reach out and invite family members, friends, neighbors, work mates and class mates who are searching. **Even better, come with them to the first session.**



**Church Service  
Center Food  
Collection,  
October 4/5**

We invite and encourage parishioners to bring **non-perishable food** to Church next weekend, **October 4/5**, to whatever Mass you attend. We will also take a **2<sup>nd</sup> collection** to assist those who need assistance with water and electric bills and with rent. Thank you and, may God bless and reward you.

**CSC need Volunteers: Call (863) 452-6464**





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