

# Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

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

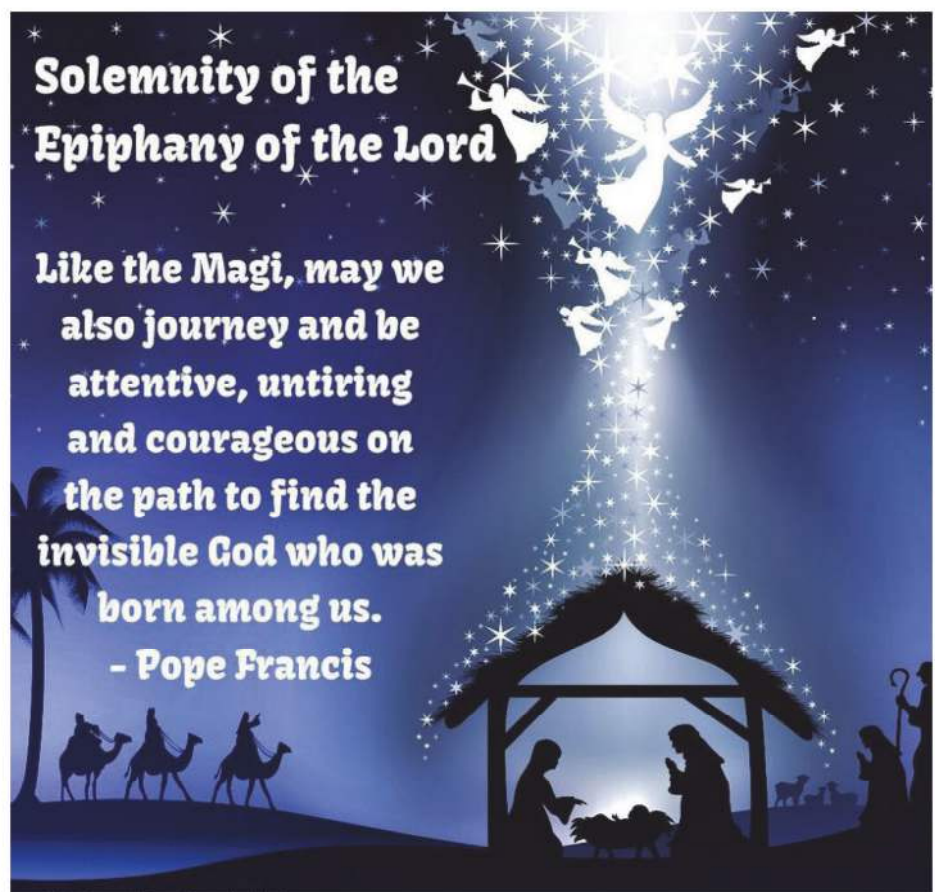
### First Friday

Mass and Holy Hour  
8 AM

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## Feast of the Epiphany

January 04, 2026



## Wise men (women) search today – Be their “Star.”

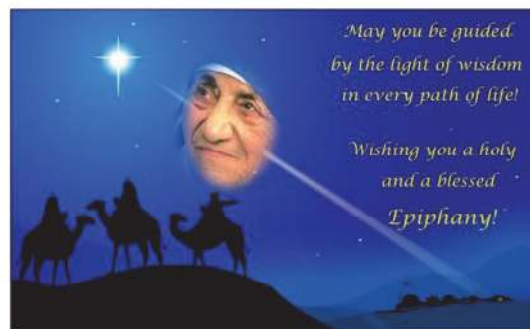
If you know someone who is searching, in your family, or, among your friends – not unlike the “star gazers” – the wise men in today’s Gospel – invite them to meet Jesus, as Catholics understand him, in the **OCIA** – the Order of Christian initiation for Adults – on Monday evening, at 7:00 P.M. in the Religious Education Building. Even better, come to the First session with them. This would be a wonderful new year’s resolution – **Be their “Star”** to those who are “searching.”



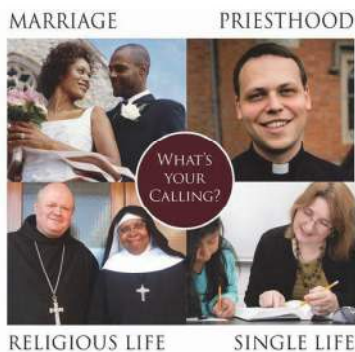


**Epiphany - a “Star” points to Jesus to those who search**  
A favorite rendition of the “*Magi from the East*” is the stonework of Autun Cathedral where the 3 are in the same bed under a large blanket, and all are wearing their crowns! An angel is waking them to point out the star, which will lead them to Jesus. One of them is shown with both eyes wide open in wonder; another, with one eye open, is half awake; but the third, with both eyes shut tight, remains sound asleep – as if to represent 3 stages of spiritual ‘awakening’ in the medieval tradition. As we read Matthew’s account of the Magi, we become aware of its meaning: we live with various phases of “*awakenings*” of people or things pointing us to Jesus.

**The Magi started with seeing a star.** This is an image of anything that calls people to set out on a journey towards Jesus. A Mother Teresa may be that human ‘star’ pointing us to something beyond ourselves. For Tony Blair, the former English premier, his “star” was the faith of his own wife and kids. For Douglas Hyde, the editor of the *Daily Worker*, a Communist newspaper in London in the mid-1940s, his “star” was the simple faith of a young girl praying in Church that led him to seek instructions in the Catholic faith.



It is significant that the Magi did not travel alone. This is a vital element in our own search for Jesus; people come to Jesus in small prayer groups and in small Bible study weekly gatherings. Following the light and searching for Christ is more often a community journey, not a lonely individual quest. That is why the Church is undertaking new ways of evangelizing today – in small groups – Charismatic Prayer groups, Bible study groups, etc. This is one of the approaches to evangelization on the part of teens and young adults. Mass for them, is more of a “praying, praising and worshipping together” and not a “collection of lone rangers,” doing their “own thing.”



**The Magi and stewardship:** they came to offer their gifts. Someone has said: “*You are God’s greatest gift to you; what you do with that gift is your gift back to God.*”

**The wise men brought their gifts** of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. **What gifts do we bring?** We hear young men and women speak of their gift of self to God in the priesthood, religious life, in marriage, in single life, or, in lay ministry. We need to get in touch with something in the deepest depths of our being where the Spirit – God - speaks to us. It entails a discernment of how we live in our

**culture in the light of our relationship with Jesus.**

**The Magi returned home by ‘another way’.** To find Jesus means that His Kingdom is an alternative way of living: it means serving others; letting go of self; much different from Herod’s way of power, ego and death. In the words of Church Father, Irenaeus, “*The Glory of God is man and woman fully alive with the vision of God.*” **Fr Ronnie & Staff, A Blessed New Year.**





**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 1<sup>st</sup> American born Saint**  
**Feast Day, Monday, January 4.**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, an Episcopalian, at the age of 19, married William Magee Seton. The two had five children. Ten years after they were married, William died, leaving Elizabeth with five children to raise alone. Her love for the Eucharist led her to convert to Catholicism and founded the first order of religious women in America, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph. She was able to raise her children, as well as live the life of a sister and found several schools. She became the co-founder of the first U.S. Catholic School.

## **St. John Neumann, 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Bishop Saint (1977)**

St. John Neumann was certain that he was called to be a priest, but when the time came for ordination, the bishop fell ill and the ordination was cancelled. Knowing he was meant to be a priest, John traveled all the way from Bohemia – Czechs Republic - to New York City to be ordained. He was one of only 36 priests, serving 200,000 Catholics: his 'parish' stretched from Lake Ontario throughout Pennsylvania. He became the founder of the first diocesan Catholic system, going from only 2 schools to 100 schools in

his diocese of Philadelphia. He died in 1860.  
**Canonized 1977. Feast Day, Tues, Jan 5<sup>th</sup>.**



**St. Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini**

The 1st American citizen, born in Italy, to be canonized a saint by the Catholic Church; she was **canonized in 1946 by Pope Pius XII:**

## **Some facts about Mother Cabrini:**

- She was born in Italy and became a naturalized US citizen in 1909
- She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which provided education, health care, and other services to the poor
- She founded Columbus Hospital in New York and later moved to Chicago, where she founded hospitals



- She died of malaria in Chicago in 1917. **Her Feast Day is July the 7<sup>th</sup>.**
- She is the patron saint of immigrants.



*You are writing the Gospel  
a chapter a day,  
By the deeds that you do  
And the words that you say.  
People will read what you write,  
Whether faithless or true.  
Say, what is the Gospel  
According to you.*





### ***La Epifanía del Señor***

En el Evangelio de hoy escuchamos de tres reyes guiados por una estrella hacia el Rey de Reyes. Aunque se vestían de la majestad mundana, se inclinaron, humillados, ante este Rey recién nacido. Y se levantaron transformados.

Y me atrevo a creer que sus vidas nunca volvieron a ser las mismas. Todos peregrinamos hacia nuestro hogar eterno con el Rey de reyes. Todos tenemos momentos de epifanía en nuestras vidas — llamadas telefónicas, encuentros, diagnósticos, decisiones— cuando nos encontramos con nuestro Señor y Él ilumina el camino que tenemos por delante de una manera nueva.

Que todos encontremos al Señor hoy en nuestro camino, dondequiera que estemos, y regresemos por el camino que Él nos tiene preparado, “proclamando las alabanzas del Señor”. Que su luz brille con fuerza donde más la necesitas hoy. \_\_ Shauna Occhipinti

*¡Feliz Epifanía del Señor!*

### **PROGRAMA DE EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA**

**Edificio McDonald**

Grados Pre-K-6 Domingos

9:00 a 10:15am

Grados K-12 Miércoles

6:00 a 8:00pm

Preguntas/Información

Mayra Donan

863-453-7537



**Juan XXIII**  
**Jueves 7:00pm**  
**Salón Parroquial Grogan**  
**Para Información**  
**863-205-0694 / 863-853-0065**

**GRUPO DE ORACIÓN**  
**Jueves 7:00pm**  
**Iglesia**  
**Rosario en comunidad a las 6:00pm**  
**Para Información**  
**863-448-6869 / 863-528-8267**

**MASS INTENTIONS****SATURDAY JANUARY 3**

8:00 a.m. + John Coleman.  
 4:00 p.m. + William & Virginia Cook  
 by Evelyn Seely.  
 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass.

**SUNDAY JANUARY 4**

8:00 a.m. + George Moffett by Glenda  
 Moffett.  
 10:30 a.m. + William Meredith by  
 Justine Devlin.

**MONDAY JANUARY 5**

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

**TUESDAY JANUARY 6**

8:00 a.m. + Memory of Adoracion  
 Levist by Dr. Bouffard.

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7**

8:00 a.m. + Dale Oleary by Terry  
 Oleary.

**THURSDAY JANUARY 8**

8:00 a.m. + Raymond Stebbins by  
 Friend.

**FRIDAY JANUARY 9**

8:00 a.m. For Our Parish Family.

**SATURDAY JANUARY 10**

8:00 a.m. Rick Senkow by The  
 Bergamark.  
 4:00 p.m. Bert Grant by Randy Rhodes.  
 + Robert Morin by Kathy  
 Morin.  
 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass.

**2026 MISSALS**

The 2026 Missals are available in the  
 Parish Office from 8 a.m. to 4:30  
 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Missals  
 are \$5.00 each.

**2026 ENVELOPES**

Will be available the first week in  
 January. Envelopes will be set up in  
 the foyer of the Grogan Center.

**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 Babbitt
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.

**GENEALOGICAL MEETING**

The Genealogical Society will hold a  
 meeting on Thursday, January 8,  
 2026 at 1:30 p.m. in the Religious  
 Education Building. All are  
 welcome to learn about their family  
 tree.

**STEWARDSHIP FAIR**

How to share your talent with your  
 Parish Community. There will be a  
 Stewardship Fair on Sunday, January  
 11, 2026, from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. in  
 the Grogan Center. Everyone is  
 invited to come. More details to  
 come.

**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.





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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



## The Work of Christmas Begins

*When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes have returned home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
Then the real work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry  
To release the prisoner,  
To teach the nations,  
To bring Christ to all,  
To make music in the heart.*



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