

Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



21st Sunday Ordinary Time

August 24, 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

Visit us on the web!

www.gap.org



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Strive to enter through the Narrow Way..” (Lk 13: 24)

Michael Phelps did and it made a difference:

He discovered the truth, “*No pain, no gain.*”

Parents: Which way will you choose for your children?

Jesus “*is the Way, the Truth and the Life...*”

Did you Enroll your children in the School of Religion?



**Michael Phelps, greatest Olympian ever,
Found purpose and meaning in his life. He**

“Entered through the Narrow Gate”

In the months and even years leading up to **the 2016 Rio Olympics**, much of the news about **Michael Phelps** was not good. **In September of 2014**, he was arrested for **driving** while *“under the influence”* in his hometown of Baltimore.

As Phelps told ESPN, following his announced retirement in **2012**, he struggled to *“figure out who he was outside the pool.”* In his words, *“I was a train wreck. I was like a time bomb, waiting to go off. I had no self-esteem, no self-worth. There were times*

where I didn’t want to be here. It was not good. I felt lost.” Like a lot of people struggling with similar feelings, **he self-medicated.**

In the immediate aftermath of that **DUI arrest**, he cut himself off from family and other loved ones and *“thought the world would just be better off without me . . . I figured that was the best thing to do — just end my life.”*

That’s when a friend came to his rescue: former All Pro linebacker **Ray Lewis**, whom Phelps considers a kind of *“older brother.”* Seeing the hopelessness and despair in his young friend, **Lewis, an outspoken Christian, told him, “This is when we fight . . . This is when real character shows up. Don’t shut down. If you shut down, we all lose.”**

Lewis convinced Phelps to enter rehab and gave him a book to read while he was there: *“The Purpose-Driven Life”* by his friend **Rick Warren**. The book changed Phelps’ life. Within a few days, Phelps called Lewis and told him *“Man this book is crazy . . . The thing that’s going on . . . oh my gosh . . . my brain, I can’t thank you . . . enough, man. You saved my life.”*

As Phelps told ESPN, **Rick Warren’s book “turned me into believing there is a power greater than myself and there is a purpose for me on this planet.”** The book, which tells readers that *“relationships are always worth restoring,”* also convinced Phelps to reconcile with his father from whom he had been estranged for more than two decades. Upon seeing each other, they embraced.

As the whole world knows by now, Phelps won 6 gold medals at the Rio Olympics, bringing his overall total to a staggering 25, but his story of hope and restoration doesn’t really need any further embellishments—it’s *miraculous* enough.

Michael Phelps’ story is a reminder that no matter how big a mess your life may be, and no matter how dim the last embers of hope may glow – **100,000 needlessly died of opioids and heroin overdose** during the pandemic - **God is still there.** It’s also a reminder of the role that **mentors** and God’s people are called to play as disciples of hope and agents of restoration. Can you be a Ray Lewis to someone? **All it takes is God acting through someone who cares.** The results may not be as dramatic as Phelps’ story but they will matter just as much. Maybe, you could give a copy of **Rick Warren’s book, “The Purpose-Driven-Life”** to someone you know who is struggling with drugs or drink? &, respond to Jesus’ call to *“enter through the narrow way.”*

Parents, catechists: What is your answer, “Yes,” or “No?”

The opening of the School of Religion raises important questions: Who is responsible for *“handing on the faith”* to children? **Baptism** requires parents to *“hand on the faith.”*

Parents assumed **primary responsibility for handing on the faith**, when they brought their children to be baptized and, responded to the **priest’s question in the Rite of Baptism:**

“You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith....” Then, the priest continues with a question:

“Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”

To which the parents respond, **“We do.”**

The parents assume **responsibility for handing on the faith to their children**. They can do this in an **informal way** by teaching them to pray and sharing simple stories from the bible in the home.

The parents are not solely responsible for handing on the faith to their children.

Catechists are reminded of **their mission** in Paul’s letter to the Philippians:

“... Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.”

So, what then is the role of the catechist?

To answer that question, let’s share an insight which the late Indian Jesuit Spiritual writer, **Anthony de Mello**, shares about the writer who came to interview the Master.



‘People say you are a genius. Are you?’ he asked.

‘You might say so,’ said the Master, none too modestly.

‘And what makes one a genius?’

‘The ability to recognize a butterfly in a caterpillar; an eagle in an egg; the saint in the sinner; the friend in the enemy,’ – to see the baby in its mother’s womb.

The catechist invites children to **‘come and see’** themselves and others as Jesus **“sees” them**. Recall in John’s Gospel, where two of his disciples follow Jesus. Jesus turned and asked them, *‘What are you looking for?’* They said to him, *‘Teacher...Where are you staying?’* He said to them, *“Come, and you will see.”* The catechist invites the children *“Come, and you will see,” - “[with] the same attitude ... of Christ Jesus.”*

Response: Matthew’s Gospel (21: 28 – 32) gives us **the response of the two sons** to their father’s invitation to work in his vineyard. The first son said **“no”** but changed his mind and then went to work in his father’s vineyard. The second son said **“yes”** but did not go.

In those 2 responses we see our responses to God’s invitation to minister in his vineyard.

At Baptism, some parents said “yes,” but have not taken any steps to have their children **catechized** by enrolling them in the **School of Religion**. **Other parents initially said “no” to Baptism** but, changed their minds and, had them baptized and, are now having their children catechized. **In conclusion**, Matthew’s Gospel (21: 28 – 32) might be summed up in one sentence: **“Actions speak louder than words.”** Now is the time to **“Act.”**

What is your response? “Yes” or “No?”

A 'Thank you' note from Jordan Spieth for a work-scholarship to attend Jesuit H.S. Dallas

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, September 8, 2009

My name is Jordan Spieth, and I am currently a Junior at Jesuit. I appreciate all the help you have offered to Jesuit. Thank you for the Joseph M. Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund. I have received this due to the work grant program, which allows us to work for our tuition here at Jesuit. I have made many new friends due to this program, and I feel it is a great way to help out my family.

I play on the Jesuit golf team, and I am ranked the number 1 junior golfer in the country. My dream is to play professionally and win the Masters.

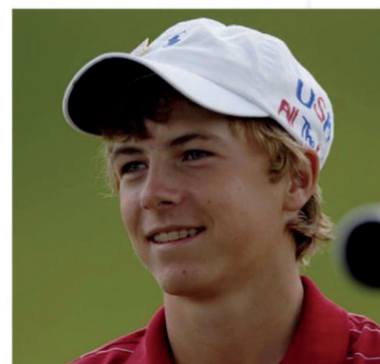
Because of your scholarship fund, I am able to strengthen my academics as well as my golf game at Jesuit in order to get one step closer to achieving my goals.

Thanks again for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Jordan Spieth

A 'thank you' letter written by Jordan Spieth, a 3 times-golf-major-champion, to thank the **Joseph M. Murphy Memorial Fund**, which helped with his tuition while a student at Jesuit High School in Dallas. What a role model? **The 2025 high school graduates** from Avon Park, Sebring and Frostproof high schools thank **OLG Scholarship Committee** for raising \$9,000 in **OLG Golf Tournament** for scholarships for the 2025 high school graduates.



Plan to attend University or Vocational School this Fall, applications for OLG Scholarships available on website www.ologap.org, in School of Religion office, or, in Parish office.



Algunos dicen que Jesús se refería a los líderes judíos, los escribas y fariseos. Estos se negaron a seguir a Jesús, mientras que los judíos comunes se convirtieron en discípulos.

En cierto modo, se puede entender por qué los líderes rechazaron a Jesús. Se ganaban bien la vida con las ofrendas de los judíos comunes. ¿Y quién podría discutir con ellos? Trabajaban para Dios. ¿Cómo se atrevía Jesús a decir que serían expulsados, mientras que gente del resto del mundo entraría en el Reino de Dios!

¿Y nosotros? ¿Nos sentimos amenazados por el mensaje de Jesús? Así como los escribas y fariseos se consideraban importantes a los ojos de Dios por su oficio, ¿nos consideramos "salvos" por llamarnos cristianos? ¿Somos generosos con los pobres o solo con nuestros amigos? ¿Seguimos nuestra conciencia o seguimos a la multitud? Entrar en el Reino de Dios no es una moda. No llegamos por lucir bien. Jesús nos invita a ser los últimos en la tierra para poder ser los primeros en el Reino. Tom Schmidt

DIÓCESIS DE VENICE
EN FLORIDA

LLAMADA DE FE CATÓLICA

La Campaña de Fe Católica (CFA) es una oportunidad anual para que cada miembro de la comunidad de fe de la Diócesis de Venecia active programas y ministerios que cambian vidas. Las donaciones... a la CFA financian ministerios esenciales que benefician a todos los parroquianos, familias y escuelas católicas del suroeste de Florida. Además, la CFA brinda apoyo a seminarios y vocaciones juveniles, atención médica y de vivienda para personas necesitadas, programas de fe para niños y adultos, y programas de extensión a través de Candidatos Católicos, Diócesis de Venecia.

FORMAS DE DONAR:

Haga los cheques a nombre de:
Campaña de Fe Católica
1000 Poydras Road
Naples, FL 34109

Tarjeta de crédito:
Una donación única o mensual recurrente

Escaneé aquí o visite diocesoflavorice.org

¿Serás unos de los primero o uno de los últimos en responder al llamado de Jesús a través de la Campaña Católica 2025?
Dios bendiga tu ¡Si!

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

GRUPO JUAN XXIII. Se reúne los **Jueves** a las 6:30 PM en el salón San Juan Bosco. Para más información llamar Omar 205-0694 o Elvin 863-443-4351.

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

Programa de Educacion Religiosa

Nuestro Programa de Educacion Religiosa es para estudiantes k-12 y despues de confirmacion

- El programa de Primera comunión es de 2 años, comenzando en primer Grado.
- Las confirmaciones son dos años para estudiantes de 9 a 12 grado
- Ofrecemos un programa estudio Bíblico para estudiantes que an completado su confirmacion, y quieren seguir formandose en su fe.
- El grupo de jovenes adultos es para jovenes de 18-25 años
- Las clases para grados k-6to son los Domingos de 9am-10:15am
- Para grados 9-12 las clases son los Miercoles de 6:00pm-8:00pm

Inscribete ahora

La oficina esta abierta
9am-4:00pm
Lunes a Viernes

Para mas informacion
Mayra.donan@ologap.org
(863) 453-7537
(863) 214-3025

Cuota de inscripcion:
Julio-\$35 por niño/ \$60 por familias 3+
Agosto-\$45 por niño/ \$80 por familias 3+
Sept. -\$60 por niño/ \$120 por familias 3+

¡Que Aquel que es el Amor, que creó todo por Amor y murió por Amor a nosotros, nos ayude a vivir nuestro matrimonio según su voluntad!

Our Lady of Grace
595 East Main St
Avon Park FL
33825

30 de Agosto de 2025
8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Desayuno y almuerzo incluido

TODO POR AMOR

Retiro de Parejas

Invita: Grupo de Oración Santísima Trinidad
Informes: 863-448-6869

MASS INTENTIONS**SATURDAY AUGUST 23**

4:00 p.m. + Al & Jennie Grant by Bert and Deb Grant.

7:00 p.m. + Eduardo Servantes by Maria Servantes.

SUNDAY AUGUST 24

8:00 a.m. + Vicky Kellner by Dennis Kellner.

10:30 a.m. + Magdalen Stahl by JoMarie & Jerry Grinkiewicz.

MONDAY AUGUST 25

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY AUGUST 26

8:00 a.m. + Treva Magnuson by Ronald Magnuson.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27

8:00 a.m. Deb Grant by Randy Rhodes..

THURSDAY AUGUST 28

8:00 a.m. + Patrick Njie by Pauline Njie.

FRIDAY AUGUST 29

8:00 a.m. + Pauline Holcombe by Mr. Kellner.

SATURDAY AUGUST 30

4:00 p.m. + Michael Doran by Joe & Bev.

7:00 p.m. For the family of Palafox and Meza by Paola Palafox.

TO ALL PARISHIONERS:

Now that Fr. Ronnie has instituted the receiving of the Precious Blood, please note that there is no dipping of the Host into the cup containing the Precious Blood! The reason for this is to prevent any spills or dripping that may occur, also to avoid any contamination. Please just sip from the cup.

If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister, please call or text Deb Grant 307-220-0308 Lead EM and Trainer and training will be provided.

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 Reisert		

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.



Staff & Ministries

Administrative Assistant

Evelyn Barcinas
Evelyn.Barcinas@ologap.org

Bookkeeper

Linda Beman
linda.beman@ologap.org

Maintenance

Maria Ramirez

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



Luke 18:15-17

Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."



Religious Education Registration

OLG Religious Education Program is now open for enrollment for all families who wish to register their children for **grades Pre-K through 12**, for the **2025-2026 School year**.

Classes Pre-K through 6th grade will meet on **Sunday, 9:00 - 10:15 A.M.**

Classes, Grade 7 through 12, will meet on **Wednesday, 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.**

We are offering an **early registration discount through the end of the month of August**: \$45 per child, or \$80 for families with 3 or more children.

The registration fee beginning September: \$60 per child, or \$120 for families with 3+ children.

To Register your children, you can stop by the Religious Education Office Bldg., **Monday through Friday, from 9:00 A.M. through 4:00 P.M.**

Opening dates for the school of Religion

Grades K through 12

Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Grades Pre-K to 6, Sunday, September 7, 2025, 9:00 to 10:15 A.M.

Questions/Information: Phone Mayra Donan, (863) 453 - 7537



Diocesan is proud to be printing

Our Lady of Grace's Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!

For opportunities to advertise,
please call 800-292-9111



Get this bulletin
emailed to you
every week.

Simply go to
www.DM.CHURCH/4399

...or scan →



✿ DISCOVERMASS

LIFE IN FOCUS

SEVIGNY ASSOCIATES EYE CARE

863.259.3777
Dr. Mark Sevigny, O.D.

www.7eEye.com

Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will

For further information, please call the parish office.

Griffin's CARPET MART, INC.

Flooring · Patio Furniture · Window Coverings
560 US Hwy 27 North, Sebring
863-385-4796 · www.CarpetPatioBlinds.com
Griffin Family · Parishioners

Edgewood Landscape

P.O. Box 742
Avon Park, FL 33826

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR 863.453.7300

John Palmer Electric

ELECTRIC · AIR CONDITIONING
ICE MACHINES · GENERATORS
SALES · SERVICE · INSTALLATION
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
JOHNPALMERELECTRIC.COM 863-452-2848

EWTN.COM/RADIO

EWTN Global Catholic Radio
TUNE IN

The Sandhill Grill PINECREST GOLF CLUB

863.453.7555

2250 Little Lake Bonnet Rd,
Avon Park, FL 33825

catholicmatch® Florida

CatholicMatch.com/goFL

Bucci EyeCare

Dr. Jane Bucci O'Hara
Parishioner

Board Certified Optometric Physician

863-385-3937
4325 Sun N Lake Blvd

#ThankYou ForYour Priesthood

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Avery Murphy

ADVERTISE HERE

Promote your Business AND support your Parish. Give us a call! 800-292-9111