

# Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

August 31, 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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“True humility  
is not thinking  
less of yourself;  
it is thinking of  
yourself less.”

C.S. Lewis

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*“Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,  
and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”*





## Who am I? True self, False self.

Being invited to a meal can be very revealing as we can see Jesus illustrate in today's Gospel (Luke 14:7-14).

Jesus was invited to a meal by a leading Pharisee. The Gospel tells us that the people at the meal "*were observing him [Jesus] carefully.*" If his guests were "*watching him carefully*" Jesus was, also, aware of their disposition, watching them, jockeying for positions

of importance in the seating arrangements at the table.

Jesus exposes the underlying attitudes inherent in this jockeying for positions of importance at the banquet table. He uses a story or parable of a wedding banquet as a kind of 'sugar-coated-pill' to expose the attitudes of the guests. The implication in the story is, that it is the place at table that gives honor to the guest. Jesus makes the opposite point in the story of the wedding feast: it is the **person** who gives honor at the table and **not the place** where he/she is seated.

The point that Jesus is making in the parable is that the dignity of the human person is not extrinsic but intrinsic to the person. You are not important because of where you live; what you do for a living; what you achieve in life as an athlete or actor or as a writer or as a straight "A" student or what kind of car you drive. Those are factors that are extrinsic to you. Your dignity, your importance, is something that is intrinsic to you, namely, that you are made, in the words of the first book of the Bible (Genesis 1), by God "*in his image and likeness.*"

We are reminded of this every time we come to Mass to celebrate the banquet of the Eucharist. As we enter the Church, we dip our finger in the holy water font and make the sign of the Cross. This simple practice recalls our **Baptism**, in which we became sons and daughters of a loving Father. That is who we are – sons and daughters of a loving Father. That is why Jesus reminds his host in today's Gospel, "*When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Blessed will you be because of their inability to repay you.*" We forget that, we allow others in other social settings to give us a sense of who we are. You pick up an illustration of this in a popular book regarded as the bible of every good salesman, **Dale Carnegie's "How to win friends and influence people."** The fallacy that Jesus is exposing in today's Gospel is contained in the title of that book. The opening phrase gives it to us, "*How to win friends.*" To "*win*" a friend and "*influence*" people, you have to do something. It's '*a quid pro quo*' exchange; "*I give so that you do*" – the pharmaceutical sales Rep who indulges doctors with dining, free trips, free passes to games and shows so the doctors peddle their drugs with their patients. The Doctor is manipulated and made to feel important so the salesman can "use him" to peddle drugs to his patients.

Jesus would re-title Dale Carnegie's the book, not, "*How to win friends and influence people,*" but, "*How to be a friend*" – that is, recognize the inherent dignity in every person, because they are made "*in the image and likeness of God.*" What Jesus is saying in today's Gospel is that Christians are not called to "**win friends**"; they are called to "**be friends.**" Let's give St. Francis the last word: "*What I am before God is what I am, and nothing more.*"





*Here's the Church,  
Kathryn Fincher*

*"The Church is not a building.  
The Church is not a steeple.  
The Church is not a resting place.  
The Church is a people.  
You are the Church.  
We are the Church together!  
All who follow Jesus?  
All around the World!  
Yes, we're the Church together."*

**School of Religion Registration: Monday thru Friday, 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.  
For Information Call Mayra Donan (863) 453 - 7537**





### Great Resource for Catholic Women

- Pope St. John Paul II coined the term "the feminine genius." Explore *your* feminine genius and grow in faith in a new online community, designed specifically for Catholic women. Try it for free! Word on Fire offers a 30-day free trial. To learn more, or to join, **visit the Word on Fire Institute online.**



**Volunteers Needed for Prison Outreach** - Join the team of Diocesan volunteers who enter county jails and state prisons within the 10-county Diocese of Venice to do pastoral outreach, distribute the Eucharist and facilitate programs.

**OLG Parish has a prison in our Parish, Avon Park Correctional Institution, which is approximately 6 miles east off H 64.** Priests, Deacons, and lay volunteers are encouraged to assist in this ministry. Volunteers will first participate in an orientation program before entering the facility and will shadow experienced volunteers until they feel comfortable. Times and days vary by facility. **Please contact Joe Mallof at 224-217-7139 or Bob Hiniker 863-558-0407** to learn in what capacity you can minister.



### Calling All Couples Preparing for Marriage!

If you attend a Diocese of Venice Parish and are planning a marriage in the Church and are looking for answers regarding the Diocesan Marriage Preparation program.



Please contact: Jim Gontis, Diocesan Director, Department of Evangelization at (941) 486-4754, or email him at [gontis@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:gontis@dioceseofvenice.org). Thank you!

### Day of Reflection for Sacramental Marriage

- Couples preparing for Sacramental Marriage in the Catholic Church are encouraged to attend a Day of Reflection either **Saturday, September 20** at **St. John the Evangelist's Pulte Hall, 625 111th Ave. North in Naples** or **Saturday, November 8** at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center, 3989 S. Moon Dr. in Venice** from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The **\$60 registration fee includes** all retreat materials and lunch. **Registration is required.** Contact J Gontis at [gontis@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:gontis@dioceseofvenice.org) or **941-484-9543, ex 4754.**

**Formation Program in Spanish** - The next session of the Hispanic Apostolate's Formation Program will begin on **September 5**. We are celebrating the Jubilee Year, and the Catholic Church also commemorates the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, therefore, our topic of study will focus on the "The Nicene Creed." There will be a total of eight classes held from 7:00 pm. to 9:00 pm. on Fridays (Thursdays during Lent) through February 26, 2026. The cost for all the classes is \$35 including a Catechism for those who do not have one. Students who register and attend a minimum of 7 classes at one of the participating parishes or online using our APP ([www.pastoralhispanavenice.com](http://www.pastoralhispanavenice.com)) will qualify to receive a Diocesan Certification.



"Los últimos serán los primeros y los primeros serán los últimos"

San Mateo 20, 1-16



**Jesús está siendo observado por los fariseos. Y Él también los observa. Los ve compitiendo por el lugar de honor, necesitados de prestigio y reconocimiento. Jesús podría fácilmente reprenderlos y avergonzarlos como Rey del Universo. Pero también es el Amor Encarnado. En lugar de avergonzarlos, les cuenta una parábola y les da la libertad de examinarse a sí mismos y de cambiar su comportamiento. La naturaleza humana caída busca Poder, Prestigio, Prosperidad, Popularidad o Placer. No les dice que no deben desear honor; al contrario, redirige su deseo, elevándolo. Nos señala hacia el cielo, recordándonos que cualquier "honor" que recibamos en la tierra carece de valor si no resulta en una recompensa celestial. Solo Dios ve nuestras obras generosas, y solo Dios puede recompensarlas.**\_\_ Kathryn Mulderink

**El Día del Trabajo** en los Estados Unidos es celebrado el primer lunes de septiembre. Este día rinde homenaje al movimiento laboral y las contribuciones que los trabajadores han hecho a la fortaleza, la prosperidad, las leyes y el bienestar del país.



**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.

### Programa de Educación Religiosa

Ya tiene abiertas las inscripciones para todas las familias que deseen inscribir a sus hijos en los grados de Preescolar a 12° para el año escolar 2025-2026.

Ofrecemos un descuento por inscripción anticipada hasta finales de agosto: \$45 por niño o \$80 para familias con 3 o más hijos.

La cuota de inscripción a partir de septiembre es de \$60 por niño o \$120 para familias con 3 hijos.

\*Las clases de Preescolar a 6.º grado se impartirán los domingos de 9:00 a 10:15 a. m.\*

\*Las clases de 7.º a 12.º grado se impartirán los miércoles de 6:00 p. m. a 8:00 p. m.\*

### Fechas de Comienzo de la Escuela de Religión

#### Grados Pre-K-6

**Domingo, 7 de septiembre de 2025, de 9:00 a 10:15am**

#### Grados K-12

**Miércoles, 3 de septiembre de 2025, de 6:00 a 8:00pm**

Para inscribir a sus hijos, pueden visitar el Edificio de la Oficina de Educación Religiosa, de lunes a viernes, de 9:00 a. m. a 4:00 p. m

Preguntas/Información: Llamar a Mavra Donan al (863) 453-7537



**MASS INTENTIONS****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.

**SUNDAY AUGUST 31**

8:00 a.m. + Vicky Kellner by Judy Pounds.

10:30 a.m. JoMarie Grinkiewicz by Jerry Grinkiewicz.

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1**

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2**

8:00 a.m. + Jeffrey Torell by Phillips Family.

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3**

8:00 a.m. + James Whitney by Phillips Family.

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4**

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

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5**

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

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6**

4:00 p.m. + A. J. Grant by Mom & Dad.

7:00 p.m. Birthday - Norma Burgos Lugo by Family.

**GENEALOGICAL MEETING**

The Highlands County Genealogical Society will meet on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the Religious Education Building. All are welcome to learn about their family tree.



The office will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2025 for the Labor Day Holiday.

**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	Clay Gooch	

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

### 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



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 Classes begin this week – Welcome.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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**





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