

Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



17th Sunday Ordinary Time

July 27, 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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Lord
Teach
us to
Pray

Luke 11:1

The Lord's Prayer

"He was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test' (Lk 11: 1-3)



The family that prays together stays together

“Lord teach us to pray.” What triggered the disciples’ question? **They saw Jesus in prayer.** The sight of Jesus praying triggered their question. This is why it is so important that children see their parents pray and from that it may trigger the same question, **“Mom and Dad, teach us to pray.”** The question this raises is, **do children see their parents**

pray in the home? Do families pray in the morning before going to work, or, before the children go to school, or, before they go to bed at night? Do families pray before and after meals?

Parents are the first educators of their children. What do we teach our children by our **example?** Do we pray individually? As a couple? As a family? Do we pray by coming to Church – as a family of families? **Would our example as parents ever trigger the question** which the disciples of Jesus put to Jesus after they observe him “praying in a certain place?”

What was the question? **“Lord, teach us to pray?”** It is noteworthy that Jesus doesn’t get into such things as methods of prayer; times for prayer; places for prayer. No, Jesus does exactly what his disciples ask him, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

He begins his prayer by addressing the one who is at the heart of all prayer. In Matthew’s Gospel we have the more traditional account of the prayer, which begins with “Our Father.” In beginning the prayer with **“Father”** in Luke, or, **“Our Father”** in Matthew, Jesus pinpoints the heart of his intimate relationship of “Son” with his “Father.” In today’s second reading from Paul’s letter to the Christians in Colossae, he reminds his followers who they are: they are sons and daughters of a loving God because of their Baptism.

In teaching his disciples – then and now – how to pray, Jesus is reminding them and us of our intimate relationship with “the Father.” The term **“Father”** – **“Abba”** – is a term of endearment. It is like a kid who says “Dad.” It is a term of endearment which gives expression to the deepest intimacy between father and son and father and daughter.

What Jesus is doing here is inviting us into the intimacy of his relationship and his conversation with the Father. This is the only prayer that Jesus teaches in the entire New Testament.

I remember standing some years ago at **the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, surrounded by Jews.** The Wailing Wall – the Western Wall - is the only remaining part of the Temple in Jerusalem which was destroyed by the Romans in the year 70 A.D. I thought of Jesus, a Jew, as I stood there groping in my mind for words. There is no mention of him in his own prayer, the Our Father. I realized that any Jewish person at that Wailing Wall could pray the words of the Our Father and not find them the least bit strange or offensive. Jesus was among his own people.

But how then can the Our Father be a Christian disciple’s prayer?

Sometime later it came to me: if there is no mention of Jesus, his life, death or resurrection, nor of any of the Christian mysteries, it is because *this was his own prayer.* In prayer he was seized by a single awareness: *The Father*; he was not thinking about himself. When we pray the *Our Father*, *we are not praying to him*, but *with him*; *we are praying his prayer.* We are so close to him that we are totally identified with him – we are drawn into his intimate prayer with the Father. We are praying *through him.* All our prayers end with the phrase, **“through Our Lord Jesus Christ....”** At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer we say, **“Through him, with him, in him....”**



Parents: Give your children a Moral Compass

Every day, our kids face any number of moral dilemmas. Should I tell the truth? Should I copy from my friend's homework, or let him copy from mine? Should I watch this racy DVD? Should I treat a classmate with kindness?

Young children probably won't use the words moral dilemma to describe these scenarios, but they do

understand that some decisions are harder than others, and that some choices are better than others. As kids get older, they understand the pressure to conform to an immoral culture—a culture with challenges not faced by previous generations.

As parents, we want to raise our children to make moral choices that will lead them toward honorable, successful lives. Can we help them build a moral compass that gives them a sense of direction when faced with life's difficult decisions?

Fighter pilots sometimes experience a phenomenon known as vertigo. When this happens, a pilot can become disoriented as to how fast and high he is going. If he relies on his sensations or memory, he may lose control of the aircraft. But one thing will not lie to the pilot—his instruments. His instruments help him determine his orientation and speed so he can safely control the plane.

I like using this example with young people because it illustrates two key components of truth and morality: First, when we're confused about what to do, a standard does exist, something that helps us recognize up from down, right from wrong. Second, that moral standard is necessarily outside our own feelings and intuition. The very concept of morality means that the standard of truth comes from a higher authority—beyond just the rules or habits of our culture.

Put another way, trying to live a moral life on our own is . . . well, impossible. But God never intended anyone to be on his or her own. When we trust in Him, He provides the guidance and support to walk in accordance with His plan. In moments of confusion, God provides us with an "instrument panel."

Children, like their adult parents, are living in a very confusing time. Moral relativism in our culture is pervasive. Children live with a maze of confusion. Simon and Garfunkel in their song "*The Sounds of silence*" give expression to this confusion in the line from that song, "*Hello darkness my old friend.*" Jesus describes himself as the "moral compass" in references like, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life," and "I am the Light." Enroll your children in the school of Religion. If you love your children, give them a moral compass. **Call Mayra Donan 453-7537.**

The Lord's Prayer is at the heart of the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7).

It was a prayer which Jesus prescribed for his followers – “*Pray then in this way*” (Mt 6:9). It was also a prayer which Jesus practiced. Have you noticed that in the Our Father, “*the pattern of all Christian prayer*,” there is no mention of Jesus, his life, death or resurrection, nor mention of any of the Christian mysteries? This absence indicates that it was *his own prayer*. In prayer he was seized by one single awareness: *the Father*; he was not thinking about himself. When we pray the ‘Our Father’ we are not praying *to him*, but *with him*; we are praying *his prayer*. We are so close to him that we do not see him. We are (so to speak) inside his head looking out through his eyes and seeing, like him, only the Father and the world. We are praying *in him*. The normal ending to every Christian prayer is: “*through Christ our Lord*.” At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer we say, “*Through him, with him, in him....*” All Christian praying is praying “*in Christ*.” In the ‘Our Father’ Jesus invites us into the intimate life of the Father, which he enjoys.

The Our Father sums up in prayer much of what Jesus did and taught in seven central themes:

1. **“Hallowed be thy name”** – Jesus is the embodiment of the power, the glory and the holiness of God. The unclean spirit in Mark’s Gospel recognizes Jesus as “You are the Holy One of God” (Mk 1:24).
In John’s Gospel, Peter was moved to confess: “We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God” (Jn 6: 69).
2. **“Thy kingdom come”** – the themselves with the very activity, and suffering: the rule of God.
In John’s Gospel, Peter was moved to confess: “We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God” (Jn 6: 69).
3. **“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”** – Matthew draws the Sermon on the Mount to a close by recalling the warning of Jesus: “Not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven” (Mt 7:21).
followers of Jesus aligned heart of his preaching, full and final presence of the
4. **“Give us today our daily bread”** – Jesus teaches his audience to ask God in a simple and trusting way for their needs: “Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if the child asks for fish, will give him a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask?” (Mt 7: 9-11).
5. **“Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors”** – Our forgiveness of one another shows how far we have accepted God’s forgiveness and have let it change our lives. Through the parable of the Merciless Servant (Mt 6) Jesus drove this point home.
6. **“Lead us not into temptation”** – Jesus wants us to pray: “protect us and help us to endure our testing faithfully” (Mt 26:41), just as he was tested in the desert at the beginning of his ministry and in his passion at the end.
7. **“But deliver us from the evil one”** – The story of the Gerasene demoniac is an example of Jesus delivering someone from the power of the evil one (Mt 9: 1-13).



Decimoséimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Jesús habla de orar por todo lo que necesitamos con fe y confianza, pero termina preguntando: “¿cuánto más el Padre celestial dará el Espíritu Santo a quienes se lo pidan?” (Lucas

1,13). ¿Está diciendo que hay límites a lo que podemos pedir? El hecho que queramos algo no significa que sea bueno para nosotros. Jesús nos está dando dos lecciones sobre la oración. Primero, nos asegura que Dios escucha nuestras oraciones y las responde.

Segundo, la oración nos cambia a nosotros, no a Dios. Cambiar nuestros deseos de egoístas a santos requiere mucho poder, el poder del Espíritu Santo. Cuando Jesús promete que el Padre nos dará el Espíritu si se lo pedimos, el Espíritu es a la vez la fuente y la respuesta a nuestras oraciones. Pidámosle al Espíritu que nos dé fuerzas para desear y orar por lo que realmente necesitamos comenzando con “¡Ven Espíritu Santo!” CIC #2670.-- Tom Schmidt

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN “SANTISIMA TRINIDAD” Este jueves habrá Misa Para los Enfermos comenzando a las 6:30pm con el Santo Rosario. Para más información llamar Hortencia 863-448-6869 o Adela 863-528-8267.



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- Nuestro grupo de jóvenes adultos es para jóvenes adultos de 18 a 25 años.
- Las clases de los domingos son para los grados de kínder a 6.º de 9:00 a. m. a 10:15 a. m.
- Las clases de los miércoles son para los grados de 7.º a 12.º de 6:00 p. m. a 8:30 p. m.

Cuota de inscripción:

Julio: \$35 por niño / \$60 familias de 3+
Agosto: \$45 por niño / \$80 familias de 3+
Septiembre: \$60 por niño / \$120 familias de 3+



¡Inscríbete ahora!

La oficina está
abierta de 9:00 a
16:00 de lunes a viernes

Más información

Mayra.donan@ologap.org

(863) 453-7537

(863) 214-3025

SATURDAY JULY 26

8:00 a.m. No Mass.
 4:00 p.m. + A. J. Grant by Mom & Dad.
 7:00 p.m. + Felix Lopez by Fania Lopez.

SUNDAY JULY 27

8:00 a.m. + Betty & T Minielli by Linda Beman.

MONDAY JULY 28

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

TUESDAY JULY 29

8:00 a.m. Special Intention – Mike Roche by Family.

WEDNESDAY JULY 30

8:00 a.m. + Ryan Eichstadt by John & Sandra Eichstadt.

THURSDAY JULY 31

8:00 a.m. + Bruce Lillpop by Mary Lee Lillpop.

FRIDAY AUGUST 1

8:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Mass – Nelia Seno by Rebecca Torres.

SATURDAY AUGUST 2

4:00 p.m. + Peter & Ann Prentice by Evelyn Seely.
 7:00 p.m. Iluminado Rodriguez Munoz by Mojica Rodriguez Family.

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	

And for those who care for the sick, for the deceased member's and benefactors of the parish, and for our loved ones.

A Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ,
 You are the true King of peace.
 In You alone is found freedom.

Please free our world from conflict.
 Bring unity to troubled nations.
 Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart.

Dispel all darkness and evil.
 Protect the dignity of every human life.
 Replace hatred with Your love.

Give wisdom to world leaders.
 Free them from selfish ambition.
 Eliminate all violence and war.

Glorious Virgin Mary,
 Saint Michael the Archangel,
 Every angel and saint:
 Please pray for peace.
 Pray for unity amongst nations.
 Pray for unity amongst all people.
 Pray for the most vulnerable.
 Pray for those suffering.
 Pray for the fearful.
 Pray for those most in need.
 Pray for us all.

Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, hear our prayers.
 Jesus, I trust in You!

Amen

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

We will be collection school supplies all through the month of July. You may drop supplies off at the Parish Office or in the foyer of the Church. Supplies needed are: backpacks, glue sticks, scissors, markers, dry erase markers, pencils, yellow highlighters, 3-ring binders, erasers, dividers, Kleenex, water color paints.



Staff & Ministries

Administrative Assistant

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Linda Beman
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Maintenance

Maria Ramirez

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Eric Quiel
Grand Knight
863-414-5002

Women's Guild

Debora Augusta
President
(863)991-1020

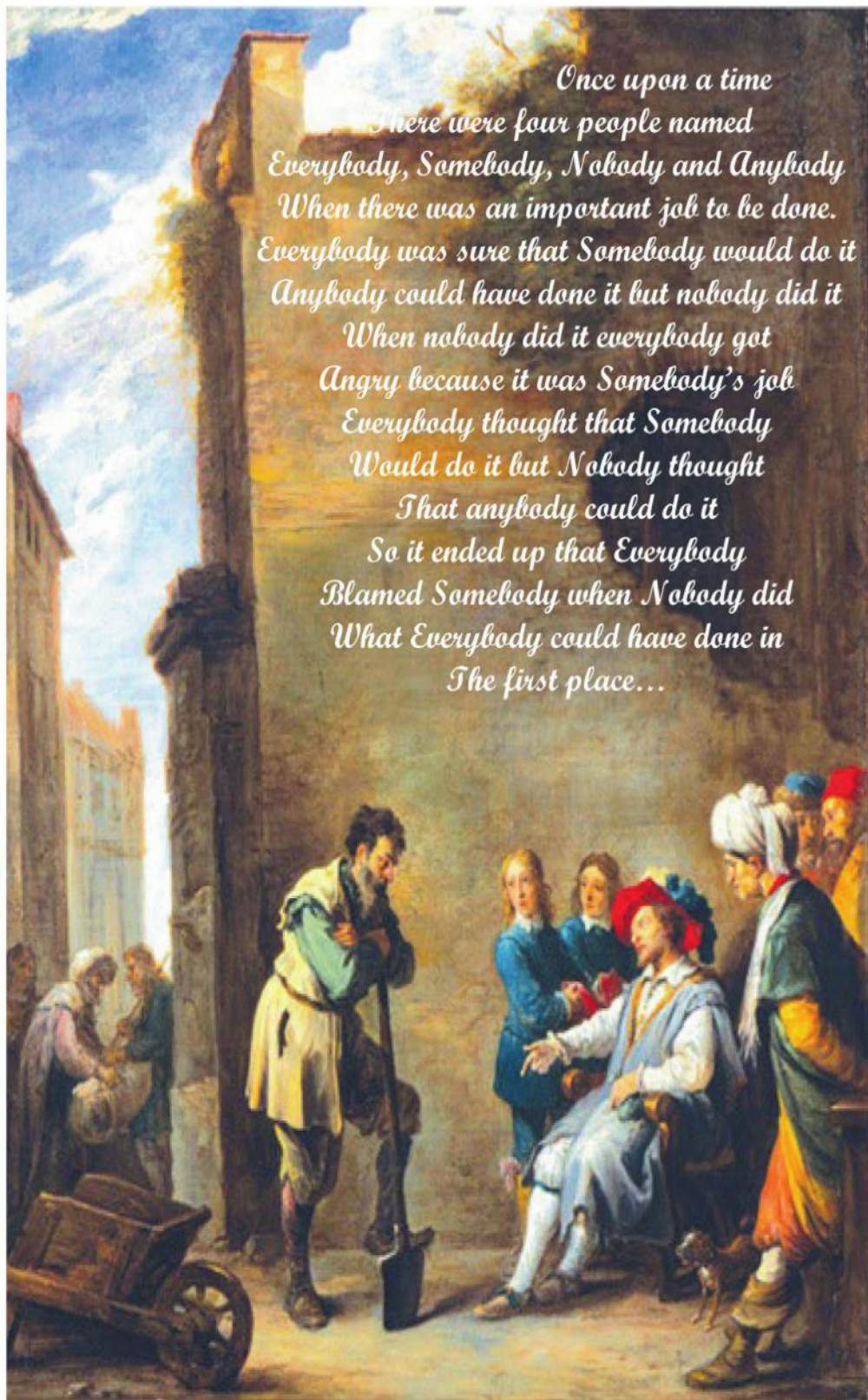
OCIA Director

Travis & Dawn Crosson
(863)453-4757

Parish Council

President

Betty Anne Lee



David Teniers: The parable of the laborers In the vineyard (Mt 20: 1-16)

Could you offer your services as a catechist in the School of Religion?
Call Mayra Donan, Dir Religious Ed – 863-453-7537



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