

# Our Lady of Grace



Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street • Avon Park, Florida 33825

Parish Office (863) 453-4757



Christ the King

November 23, 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

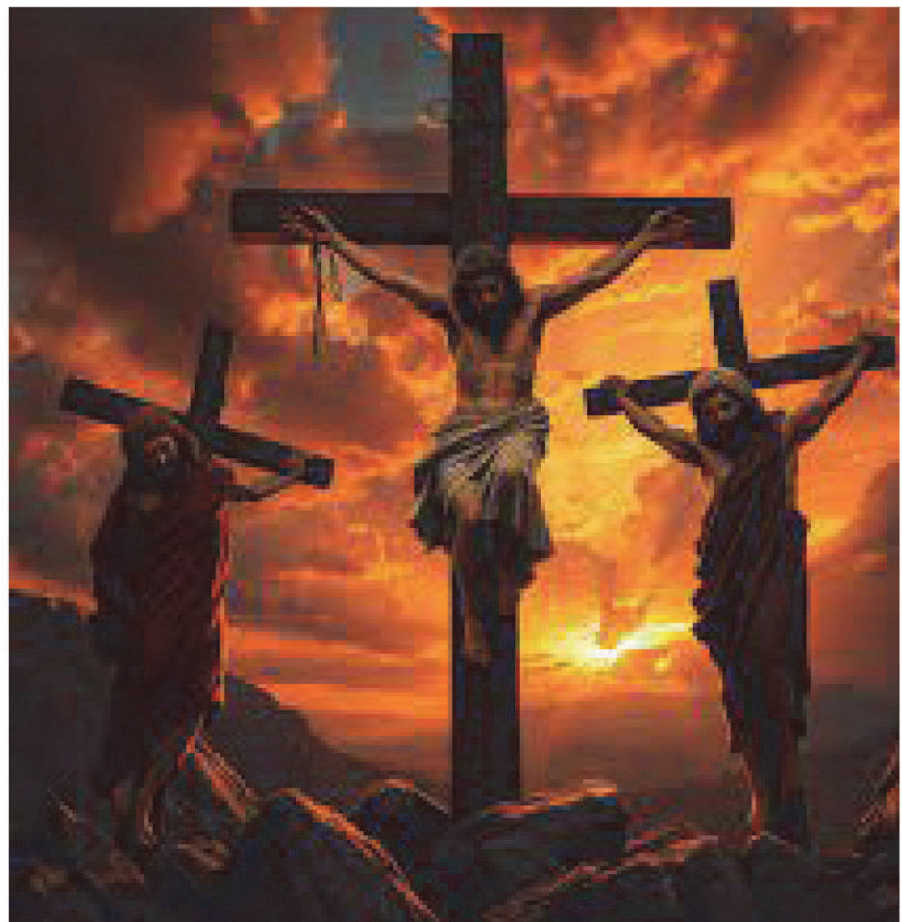
### Daily Mass

Tuesday-Friday  
8 AM

### First Friday

Mass and Holy Hour  
8 AM

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## Feast of Christ the King

*Then he [Dismas] said, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." He [Jesus] replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."*





### Who do the “2 thieves” on the Cross, Represent?

From the cross, Jesus interceded for sinners. Today, risen and glorified, Jesus remains *the “one mediator between God and mankind”* (**1 Timothy 2:5**). Jesus prayed, *“Father, forgive them,”* because He was putting into practice the principle He had taught in the **Sermon on the Mount**: *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”* (**Mt 5:43–44**). Jesus prayed for all those at the foot of the Cross who were persecuting him – “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

### Who was the - Repentant thief – “The Good Thief”?

The exchange, *“Remember me when you come into your kingdom... today you will be with me in paradise,”* is a famous exchange from the Luke’s Gospel about a repentant criminal – *“the Good Thief”* - traditionally named **Dismas**. He was crucified beside Jesus and received a promise of salvation in his final moments – *“Today, you will be with me in Paradise.”*



### The story from Luke 23:39–43:

- **The setting:** Jesus is being crucified between **2 criminals** on Mount Calvary.
- **The first criminal:** - sometimes referred to as **Gestas** - taunts Jesus, saying, *“Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”*. He doesn’t ask for forgiveness.
- **The second, the repentant criminal:** known as **Dismas**, rebukes the other criminal. He acknowledges that they are being punished justly for their crimes, while Jesus has done nothing wrong. He then turns to Jesus and pleads:  
*“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom”.*  
Jesus’s response: *“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise”.*
- We hear those words **re-echoed** by the priest every time we go to the Sacrament of Penance: *“May Our Lord Jesus Christ Absolve you and, by his authority, I absolve you from your sins...”* The **2 thieves on the Cross** represent you and me: Do I ask for forgiveness like the ‘**Good Thief**,’ by going to Confession, or, do I fail to ask for forgiveness like the ‘**other criminal**’, rarely, or, never going to Confession?



### • Advent Communal Penance Service

The season of Advent, a new Liturgical year, begins next Sunday, **Nov 30**. There will be an **OLG Parish Advent Communal Penance Service, in Church, on Tuesday, Dec 16, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.** It is an opportune time to **“begin anew”** with the New Liturgical Year to, like the **“Good Thief,”** avail of Jesus’ forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance. Let’s prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus at Christmas.





### Thanksgiving Began in Florida and not in New England

Robyn Gioia, a teacher in Jacksonville attended a teachers' workshop some years ago and heard **Michael Gannon**, a retired history scholar from the University of Florida, tell the story of Pedro Menendez de Aviles. Gannon, first laid out the premise of an earlier Thanksgiving in his scholarly book *The Cross in the Sand* in 1965, but few picked up on it. He says his mention of Menendez's meal was a "throwaway line that lay fallow for 20 years."

An **Associated Press reporter** in 1985 exposed Gannon's academic findings to the world, which caused what Gannon remembers as *"a storm of interest. I was on the phone for three days straight."* Traditionalists, especially in New England, dubbed him *"The Grinch who stole Thanksgiving."*

**Gannon** took it with good humor. *"I became rather famous at the time for saying that by the time the Pilgrims came to Plymouth, St. Augustine was up for urban renewal."* Gannon thinks the word is finally, but slowly, getting out, but he's well aware that the victors write the history books. And history, once written, is hard to change. *"The English wrote the history and established the traditions,"* he says. *"That's life. Get over it."*

Whether the 1st **Thanksgiving Mass** was celebrated by **Father Lopez** at **St. Augustine** in 1565, or, the 1st **Thanksgiving Service** was celebrated by **the Pilgrims** at **Plymouth Rock** in 1621, it is important that the most blessed nation in the world should take time out to thank God, despite the fairly recent worst **pandemic** in over 100 years, which changed our way of life, as did recent hurricanes, *Helene* and *Mostel*; there is **unrest in our country and, the economy** is struggling to come back; we have very painful wars in **Ukraine & Gaza Strip**. And, yet, we have so much for which to be grateful. And, it is important that we take time to do so.

**Join Fr Ronnie for a Festive Family Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9 A.M. Happy Thanksgiving.**



## Religious Education 2025 Fundraiser

### Poinsettias' Pre- Christmas Annual Sale

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#### Pre-order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

6.5" Red \_\_\_\_\_ \$12 each

8" Red \_\_\_\_\_ \$17 each

10" Red \_\_\_\_\_ \$22 each

checks: pay to Our Lady of Grace

Total Amount paid

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cut on black line – return top copy& keep bottom copy as a receipt

Return top copy + full payment to the office M – F, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm, or, Collection basket.

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**Customer copy – bring this copy with you when you pick up your order**

Customer's name \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Pickup, OLG, Religious Education Bldg., 595 E. Main St, Avon Park**  
**(Behind the Church, next to the playground)**

**Pickup**

**Will be on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 12 noon**

**For more information:**

**Call Mayra at (863) 214 – 3025**





¿Alguna vez has sido acusado falsamente y has sentido que no hiciste nada para merecer la culpa? ¿Cuál es tu reacción ante acusaciones falsas? ¿Ira? ¿Negación? ¿Frustración? ¿Desesperanza? ¿Aceptación? Jesús y el criminal redimido ofrecen un gran ejemplo de cómo manejar la adversidad cuando una situación te golpea duramente.

Jesús se acercaba al final de su tiempo en la tierra, pero se centró en *salvar un alma más* antes de reunirse con el Padre. Este acto desinteresado nos muestra que, independientemente de las circunstancias de la vida, siempre habrá alguien ahí para ayudarnos. Ese Alguien es Jesucristo. El criminal redimido sabía que estaría con Jesús en el cielo gracias a sus palabras. Pasó un tiempo en *silencio sagrado*, dejando que el amor y la misericordia de Dios lo llenara.

¿Cuándo experimentamos el silencio sagrado? Vemos varios ejemplos en la Misa. Durante el Acto Penitencial, reconocemos en silencio nuestros pecados. Inmediatamente después, el sacerdote dice: “Oremos”, y ese momento de silencio nos sirve de puerta para hablar con el Señor y para que Él nos llene de su amor y misericordia. Después de la homilía, también hacemos un momento de silencio. Es un momento para pedirle al Señor que llene nuestro corazón y alma con el amor y la misericordia de Dios.ك

Otro ejemplo es sentarme con Jesús en Adoración. Una hora en silencio llena de amor, comprensión y conexión personal con Él. El silencio sagrado está ahí cuando me doy cuenta de que Jesús siempre está presente, pase lo que pase. Él quiere decirme que todo estará bien y que confíe en Él y en su voluntad. Es cuando nuestros corazones se unen al suyo en un momento de puro amor y una paz que nos llena.

—Marti Garcia



### GRUPO DE ORACIÓN “SANTISIMA TRINIDAD”

Esta en receso hasta jueves enero 8, 2026.  
Para información llamar Hortencia 863-448-6869 o Adela 863-528-8267.

### GRUPO JUAN XXIII

Estará en receso después de este jueves hasta jueves enero 8, 2026. Salón San Juan Bosco 6:30PM. Para información llamar Omar 205-0694 o Elvin 863-853-0065.

### Programa de Educación Religiosa

**Prekínder - Adultos**

Preguntas/Información

Mayra Donan (863) 453-7537



Feliz Día de  
Acción de Gracias  
Gracias a Dios por  
darnos sus bendiciones

# **MASS INTENTIONS**

## **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22**

8:00 a.m. For Our Parish Family.  
 4:00 p.m. + James & Bernadine Black  
 by Bert & Deb Grant.  
 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass.

## **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23**

8:00 a.m. + Darlene McNeal by Judy  
 Berlin.  
 10:30 a.m. + Ruben Rodriguez by Jose  
 & Zoraida Rodriguez.

## **MONDAY NOVEMBER 24**

8:00 a.m. No Mass.

## **TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25**

8:00 a.m. + Bruce Lillpop by Lillpop  
 Family.

## **WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26**

8:00 a.m. + Rudy Tome by Bob Tome.

## **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27**

9:00 a.m. For Our Parish Family.

## **FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28**

8:00 a.m. + Faride Sarmiento by  
 Family.

## **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29**

8:00 a.m. + Fr. Leo Frechette & + Fr.  
 Gerald Grogan.  
 4:00 p.m. + John & Greg Kilpatrick by  
 Evelyn Seely.  
 7:00 p.m. + Marie Rosaire Dure Jean-  
 Baptiste by Benita Toussaint.

## **CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL**

Our Goal is \$122,000.00. To date  
 the amount we've received is  
 \$108,185.00. Our balance remaining  
 is \$13,815.00.

## **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.

## **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 Reisert
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.

## **RESPECT LIFE MONTH**

October is Respect Life Month, and  
 the Choices FRC annual fundraising  
 campaign is underway. The Knights  
 of Columbus will be passing out  
 baby bottles after mass beginning  
 October 18th in support of this  
 campaign. You can fill the bottles  
 with coins, bills or checks made out  
 to Knights of Columbus. Please be  
 generous and return the baby bottles  
 by November 30, 2025.

## **FUNDRAISER**

The Religious Education Program are  
 taking pre-orders for Poinsettia for the  
 holidays. Flowers must be pre-ordered.  
 Forms are available at the Church or  
 office. Orders will be taken from  
 November 8 thru November 30, 2025.  
 Pick up will be on Sunday, December 7,  
 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

For more information,  
 please call Mayra Donan  
 @863-214-3025 or 863-453-  
 4757.





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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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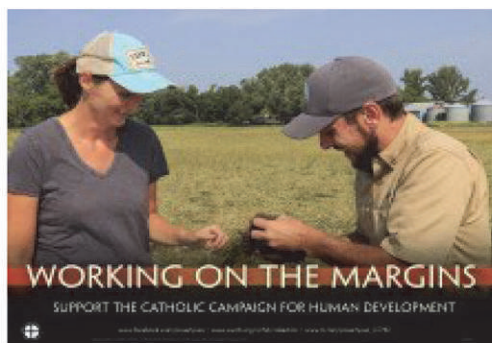
### President

Betty Anne Lee  
863-873-7176



## OCIA: Searching! You've come to the right place

Ours is a restless, anxious society; restless, inside; searching on the outside. **For what? Like the Samaritan Woman in John's Gospel** (John 4), we are *"thirsty,"* not always satisfying that *"thirst,"* because we are **drinking from the "wrong wells."** She discovered a different **"Well"** when she encountered **Jesus**. She discovered what she was searching for... for meaning in her life **Come to the OCIA** – the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults – on **Monday evening at 7 p.m. in the Sarah MacDonald Education Bldg.**



## Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection today, Nov18/19<sup>th</sup>

For more than 50 years, the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** has supported organizations that combat poverty and improve the lives of people in communities across the **United States**. Not only do CCHD-funded organizations advocate with civic, business, and community religious leaders to improve access to affordable housing, job and educational opportunities, and rights for immigrants—they also respond quickly to urgent needs when communities experience emergencies. **25% remains in Diocese of Venice.**

## OLG 2025 Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) Update

**OLF 2025 CFA Goal - \$122,000.00**

**# of Families in OLG Parish – 1,270 Families**

**Received to date – Nov 1, 2025 - \$102,185.00**  
**from 11.6% parishioners**

**Remaining balance - \$19,815.00**  
**88.4% families yet to make a pledge/payment.**

## Recommendation to meet Goal

**Remaing families pay \$25 for Nov & Dec – Thanks**



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Your Will**

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