Our Lady of Grace
Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street · Avon Park, Florida 33825

Palm Sunday **March 16, 2008**

"The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding Him and those following kept crying out and saying: 'Hosanna to the Son of David.'"

Parish Office
· Phone: (863) 453-4757
· Fax: (863) 453-2620
· Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Pastor
Fr. Nicholas McLoughlin

Spanish Apostolate
Fr. José Gonzalez

Deacon
Fred Simon

Pastor Emeritus
Fr. Gerald Grogan

Assisting Clergy
Fr. Robert Onze
Fr. John Belfield
Fr. Leo Frechette

Administrative Assistant
Betty Heiring

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www.ologap.org

"Father forgive them"

A Man
Courageous before Pilate's injustice
Silent before Herod's mockery
Victorious over Satan's deceptions
Forgiving of thief and executioners
Compassionate for weeping women
Caring for his mother
Faithful to his Father's will.

from our Pastor's desk

Dear parishioners: We live in a culture that has some peculiar attitudes toward sin. For some people – even Catholics – nothing is a sin. There is a lax attitude toward sin.

There was a wonderful book written some years ago by one of the more prominent psychiatrists in the country, Dr. Carl Menninger. He is from the world famous Menninger Institute in Topeka, Kansas. The book is called Whatever happened to sin? He wrote the book because he discovered that many of his patients in the Institute were suffering from depression caused by a repressed sense of guilt. They were on "uppers" and "downers" to try to alleviate their depression. Many were looking to the psychiatrist to explain their condition away. Dr. Menninger's diagnosis, in many of these cases, was a very simple one. He attempted a little reality "shock therapy" with his patients. They needed to acknowledge the existence of sin in their lives: to admit their own ability to sin; to assume personal responsibility for it, and to confess it. Fundamentally, Dr. Menninger's advice was quite simple: "Name it and claim it."

Harvey Cox, who teaches at Harvard University, wrote a book entitled, On Not Leaving It up To the Snake, in which he tells the story of the fall of our first parents. God came to Adam after he had eaten the apple in the garden and asked him, "What happened?" Adam was quick to point the finger at Eve. So God went to Eve and asked her, "What happened?" She was quick to point the finger at the serpent. The strongest argument for original sin, according to Professor Cox, is that people are unwilling to assume responsibility for their own sins – they want to blame someone else or explain it away. Dr. Menninger's anti-dote was simple: "Name it and claim it."

One attitude toward sin is that of the unrepentant criminal who was being crucified with Jesus. There is no acknowledgement of sin: there is no compunction; there is no confession of wrongdoing; there is no sorrow; there is no contrition; there is only despair, hopelessness and consequent deep depression – desolation, in the words of Ignatius of Loyola.

A second attitude toward sin is exemplified by the "good thief." He acknowledges his sin and assumes personal responsibility for it: "We have been condemned justly for our crimes", he said. Then, having confessed his sin to Jesus, he asked him for forgiveness: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom". He assumes responsibility for his sins with a sense of hope – consolation, in the words of Ignatius of Loyola. Jesus vindicates his hope: "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Christ is offering us the gift of reconciliation which he offered to both criminals on the cross. Listen to the words of St. Paul: "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting our sins against us and entrusting to us the message of his reconciliation." Priests, in the words of St. Paul, are "Ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

The priest signed you with ashes on Ash Wednesday with the words: "Repent and believe in the Gospel." We have listened to some wonderful stories on reconciliation in John's Gospel during the season of Lent: the Samaritan Woman; the cure of the Blind Beggar; the Raising of Lazarus from the dead. We conclude the season of Penance: "be reconciled to God." Come to the Communal Penance Service on Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. in Church. We are very fortunate to have 12 priests available: 4 speak Spanish.

Father Nicholas McLoughlin

Two Youth Group Members Selected to Represent OLG at World Youth Conference in Australia, July 13-24, 2008

Our Lady of Grace will send Adriana Ramirez and Dylan Heiring to Sydney, Australia, July 13 through the 24, 2008. They will celebrate World Youth Day with 48 other representatives of the Diocese of Venice. Pope Benedict XVI's invitation for the world's young people to gather and celebrate their Catholic faith will be a life altering experience for Adriana and Dylan. They are both 16 years old and have proven themselves in their personal dedication to serving the Lord through service, leadership, and regular attendance to Church and Youth activities. Adriana and Dylan will share with our parish many of the wonderful experiences they will have when they return home. They are looking forward to Pope Benedict's Mass for the youth attending this Conference and sharing with students from all over the world who have come together for the purpose of experiencing their faith with other young people. We are proud of Adriana and Dylan who will represent OLG Parish.

Jo Brenner

Dylan Heiring

Adrianna Ramirez

Annual Catholic Faith Appeal: We are getting close to the summer exodus for our winter residents. We want to encourage you before you take flight for mostly Midwestern destinations to play your part – for whatever period of time that you are here – in responding to the Bishop's appeal for the Annual Catholic Appeal. The Diocesan Appeal Goal is **$10,500,000**. That amount is prorated among 55 parishes which make up the Diocese. Our Lady of Grace Parish share is **$70,500**, an increase of $10,000 over 2007. We are halfway toward our goal with pledges of **$36,156** received by the Diocese to date. 3 out of every 10 families have made their pledges to date, which means that 7 out of 10 still need to make their pledges. We encourage you to make pledges for 3, 6 or 12 months contingent on your time spent here. Pledge now: make monthly pledge payments later.

at our Parish

Holy Week Schedule

Jesus Christ Superstar is a very popular rock opera. The music was composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The overture to the opera follows the Four Gospels. It begins with the triumphant arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem to a tumultuous ticker-tape-like palm-waiving welcome by his followers and onlookers. They want to make him king and hail him: "Hosanna to the Son of David." It is a 2 Act Drama, which chronicles the Passion and Death of Jesus. The exuberant joyful greeting of Palm Sunday gives way to the angry 'lynch-mob' cries of Good Friday, "Crucify him", illustrating the fickleness of the human heart. Emotions run high ranging from "Hosanna" on Palm Sunday to "Crucify him" on Good Friday.

For us too, Holy Week is High Drama. It begins with Palm Sunday. The script was written by the Four Evangelists – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The overture to the drama is Palm Sunday, with the reading of the Passion – Matthew's account of the Passion. It sets the stage for a three-act-drama: the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

As Christians, we are not merely invited to read the script – Matthew's account of the Passion. Jesus invites us to participate in the 3-act- drama of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday in his mandate, "Do this in remembrance of me." We are invited to not only **Re-call** but to **Re-Live** and to **Re-enact** the Central Mystery of our Faith. During his Passion, Jesus was abandoned by his followers who fell asleep, ran away, denied or betrayed him. He invites us not to abandon him this week.

Mass schedule for Holy Week

Holy Thursday, March 20
7 p.m., Mass of the Last Supper.

Good Friday, March 21
12 p.m., Stations of the Cross
3 p.m., Spanish Service
7 p.m., Service of the Passion

Easter Vigil, March 22
8 p.m.
Blessing of Easter fire
Blessing of baptismal water
Singing of 'Exultet'
Baptism and reception of new adult members
Celebration of Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, March 23
8 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
12 p.m. Spanish Mass
6 p.m. Life Teen Mass

Confession Schedule

Monday, March 17
5:30 p.m., Communal Penance Service
12 priests will be available to hear confessions in English and Spanish

Holy Thursday & Good Friday
Confessions 6 - 7 p.m

Holy Saturday
Confessions 10 - 11 a.m.

Blessing of Easter Food

Saturday, March 22
2 p.m. in Church.

Sacramental Life of the Parish

Baptisms:
Baptismal orientation is the first Sunday of each month. Ceremonies are performed on the second Sunday.

Marriages:
Adequate preparation is required. Call the parish office six months in advance.

Ministry to the Sick:
Arrangements can be made to have a priest and/or a Eucharistic minister visit on a regular basis, if necessary. Call the parish office.

Registration
Permanent and seasonal members are encouraged to register. Registration cards are available at the main church entrance.

PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Please come and join us on a Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico. The dates are April 1-6, 2008. Fr Nicholas McLoughlin will be the Spiritual Leader. Contact Mary Hutchison at 453-0450 [email: C130Hutch@comcast.net] if you have questions.

Readings for the Week of Mar. 16, 2008

Sunday
Isaiah 50:4-7
Phillipians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14–27:66

Monday
Isaiah 42:1-7
John 12:1-11

Tuesday
Isaiah 49:1-6
John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Matthew 26:14-25

Holy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13–53:12
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1–19:42

Holy Saturday
Genesis 1:1–2:2
Genesis 22:1-18
Exodus 14:15–15:1
Isaiah 54:5-14
Isaiah 55:1-11
Baruch 3:9-15, 32–4:4
Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28
Romans 6:3-11
Matthew 28:1-10

Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9

Please Note: Names will be left on the prayer list for one month. If you would like a name to be kept longer on the list, please call the parish office.

Mass Intentions for The Coming Week

Saturday, Mar. 15
4 p.m. † Albert Drumheller by Mary Ann Pastorella
† Chester Leppek by his family
7 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Sunday, Mar. 16
8 a.m. † Kim Edward Hughes by L.J. & Eileen Hughes
† Edward Buzzell by Mary Buzzell
† Mary Ann Carducci by Rocky Carducci
10:30 a.m. † Elmer and Anna Fischer by Jerry & Carol Brummel
6 p.m. Life Teen Mass

Monday, Mar. 17
8 a.m. † Timothy Roche by Mr. & Mrs. James Robertson
12 p.m. † Walter Robert Green by Pam Zurawski

Tuesday, Mar. 18
8 a.m. † James Mason by mom & dad
12 p.m. † Marie Ann Carducci by Rocky Carducci

Wednesday, Mar. 19
8 a.m. † Vincent Myers by Jerry & Elrie Myers
12 p.m. † Brian Pintzow by his parents

Thursday, Mar. 20
7 p.m. For our parish family

Friday, Mar. 21
12 p.m. Stations of the Cross
3 p.m. Spanish Good Friday service
7 p.m. Good Friday service of the Passion

Saturday, Mar. 22
8 p.m. † Arlene Naida by Charles Naida

Easter Sunday, Mar. 23
8 a.m. † Kate Greene by Mr. & Mrs. Ed Housemeyer
† Mary Ann Carducci by Rocky Carducci
† Don Giraud by June Giraud
10:30 a.m. For our parish family
12 p.m. Spanish Mass

Please Pray for...

Art Paek
Carol Neill
Noreen Buckley
Louis Bouchee
Joe Lashomb
Judy Leonard
Ed Groleske
Lu Hebert
Devon Sweeney
Rudy Cecere
Melissa Clayton

Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the
hour of our death.
Amen.

And Also for...

Those who care for the sick,
deceased members and benefactors of the parish,
especially Bill Freeman who died this past week,
and our loved ones.

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Gene Ryan
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Mike & Angie Heiring
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Prayer Group
Paul & Justine Devlin
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Clay Gooch
Leah Grecko
J. Jay Murphy
Michelle Roberts
Robert White
Dale O'Leary

Schedule of Masses and Prayers

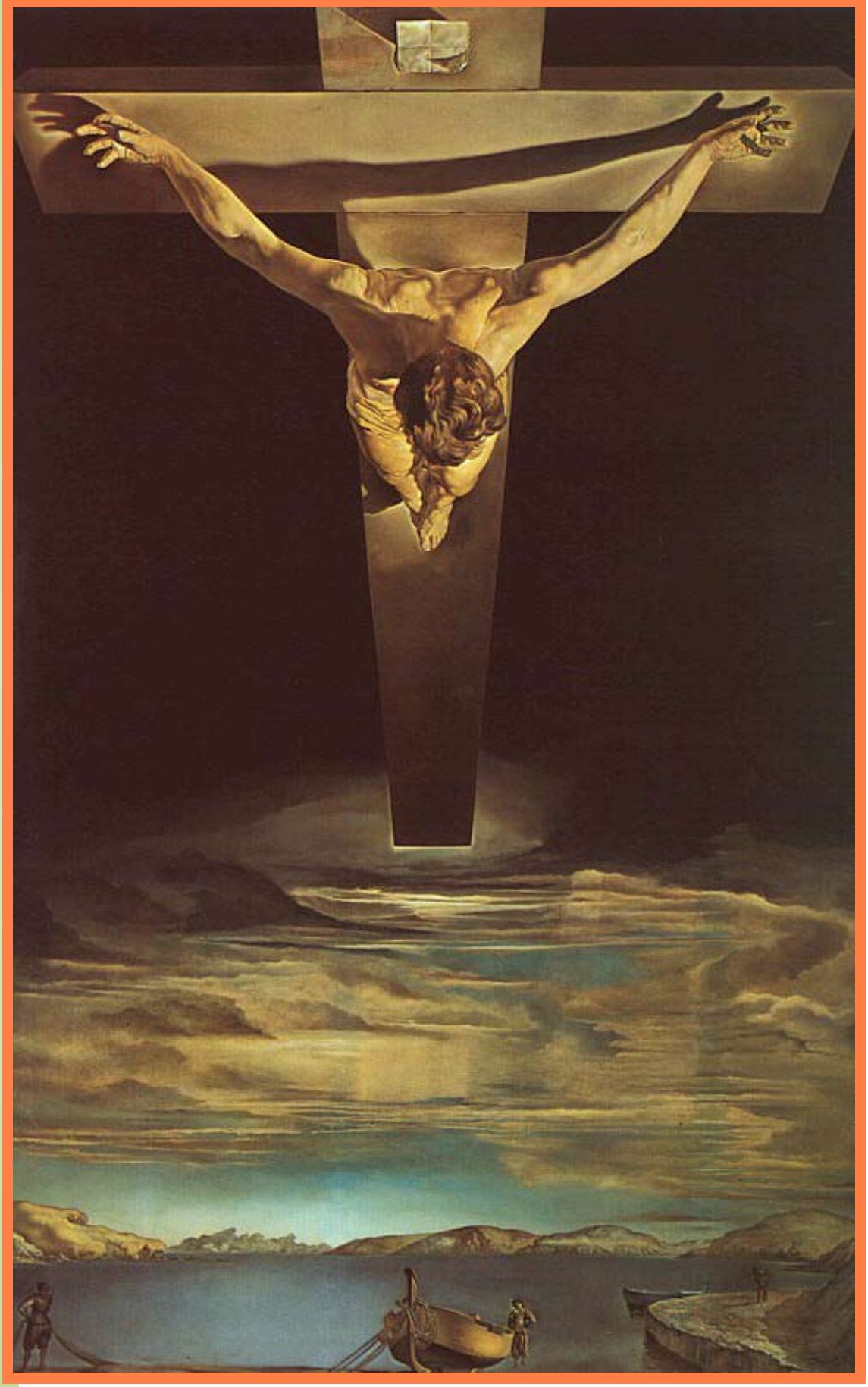
Saturday
8 a.m. with Confession
at 8:30 a.m. (Nov. - May)
Vigil 4 p.m.
7 p.m. Spanish

Sunday
8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Holy Days
Vigil 5:30 p.m.
8 a.m.

Daily Mass
Monday - Friday 8 a.m.

First Friday
Mass and Holy Hour
8 a.m.

First Saturday
Mass at 8 a.m.

Confessions
Saturday 3:30 p.m.