Our Lady of Grace
Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street · Avon Park, Florida 33825

Christ the King **November 23, 2008**

I have never seen light shine so beautifully through 'broken glass.'

Parish Office
· Phone: (863) 453-4757
· Fax: (863) 453-2620
· Monday through Friday
9 AM to 2:30 PM

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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AVON PARK INTERCHURCH THANKSGIVING SERVICE · 2008

Union Congregational Church · Wednesday, November 26 · 7 PM
Thanksgiving Message: Father Nicholas McLoughlin

Thanksgiving Day Mass

In the reading from Luke's Gospel, in which Jesus cures the ten lepers, he asks the question: "Were not ten lepers made clean; where are the other nine?" Only one of the ten lepers came back to thank Jesus for his cure. America is the most blessed nation around the world. The Thanksgiving Day holiday affords us an opportunity to thank God for our many blessings. It is good to watch the Macys' Day parade and football on TV; to eat turkey with all the trimmings. Thanksgiving should begin with taking time out to thank God for all of his blessings. We encourage you and your family to come to the Special Thanksgiving Day family Mass at 9 AM. We have so much for which to be grateful.

Campaign for Human Development Collection

The second collection today is for the benefit of the Campaign for Human Development for which Bishop Dewane appealed in his letter in the bulletin last Sunday.

Women's Guild Christmas Parade Float

December 1, the Ladies Guild of OLG will sponsor a float in the Avon Park Christmas Parade. Guild members are encouraged to decorate the float at 9 AM on Monday, December 1, in the Church parking lot in front of the Youth Center. Members are encouraged to meet at the float at 5 PM if you are interested in riding on the float in the parade.

Sunday School of Religion News

The Sunday school of religion, which recessed for the Thanksgiving holiday, will resume on Sunday, November 30, at 9 AM. The Confirmation class will meet at 7:15 PM in the Sarah MacDonald Education Building.

Thanksgiving Food Collection

Today is the last day for the food collection.

Avon Park Interchurch Thanksgiving Eve Service November 26 · 7 PM

There will be a special Avon Park Interchurch Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Union Congregational Church. The guest speaker at the Interchurch Service is Father Nicholas McLoughlin. Many of the Churches from Avon Park will participate in the Thanksgiving Service. A collection will be taken up to support the Church Service Center. In his final priestly prayer in John's Gospel (John 13-17) Jesus prayed "that they may be one as we are one… that the world may believe that you have sent me." The credibility of Christianity depends on its unity. Come & pray with fellow Christians.

The Last Judgment by Michelangelo

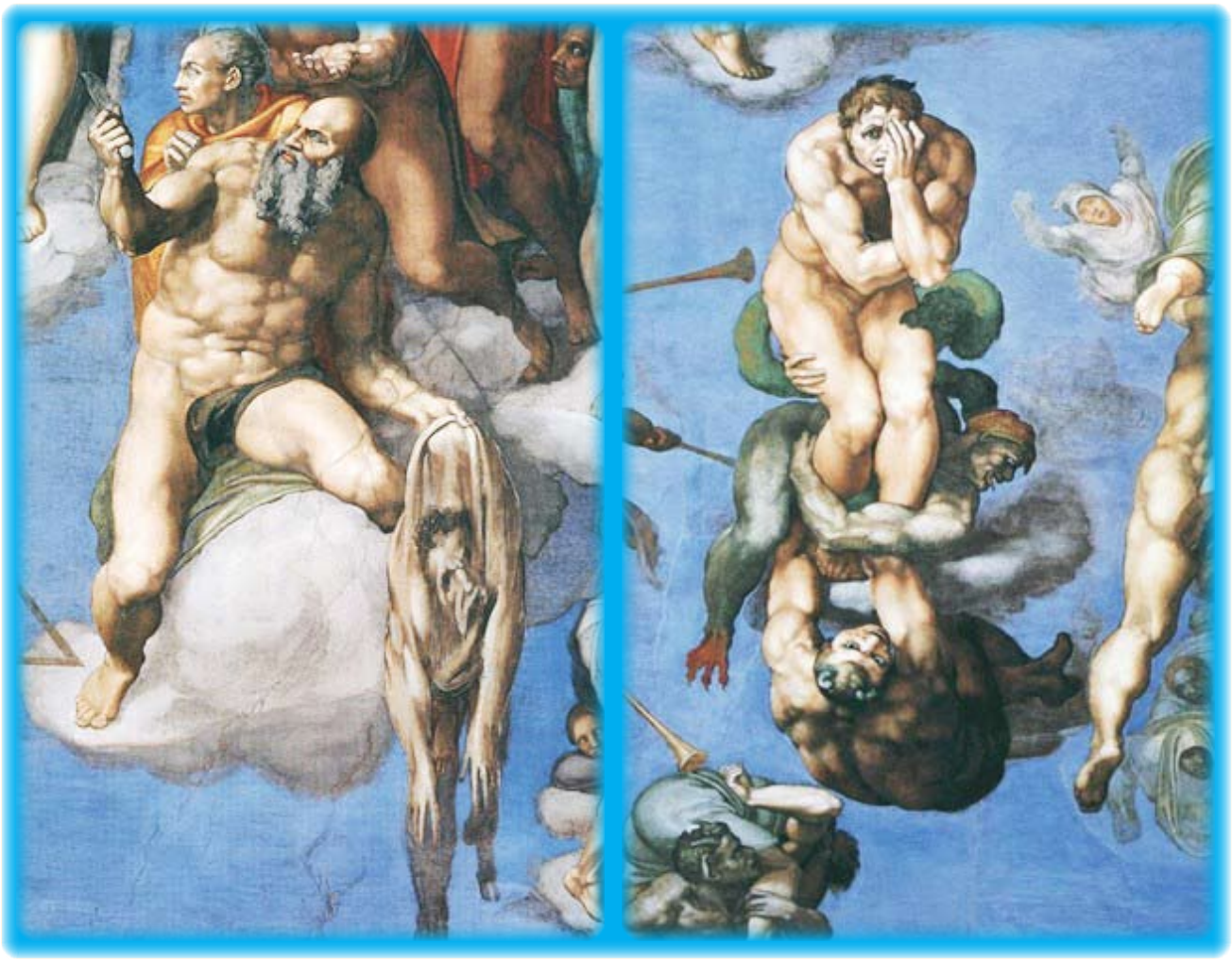
"If before the ***Last Judgment*** we are dazzled by splendor and fear, admiring on the one hand the glorified bodies and on the other those subjected to eternal damnation, we also understand that the entire vision is deeply permeated by one light and one artistic logic: the light and logic of the faith that the Church proclaims by confessing: I believe in one God ... creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible" (Homily, John Paul II, 1994).

Michelangelo's ***Last Judgment***, on the back cover of the bulletin, is centered around the dominant figure of Christ, captured in the moment preceding that when the verdict of the Last Judgment is uttered **(Matthew 25:31-46)**. His calm imperious gesture seems to both command attention and placate the surrounding agitation. It starts a wide slow rotary movement in which all the figures are involved. Included are the two upper lunettes with groups of angels bearing in flight the symbols of the Passion: on the left the Cross, the nails and the crown of thorns; on the right the column of the scourging, the stairs and the spear with the sponge soaked in vinegar.

Next to Christ is the Virgin, who turns her head in a gesture of resignation: in fact she can no longer intercede in the decision of the final judgment, but only await the result of the Judgment. The Saints and the Elect, arranged around Christ and the Virgin, also anxiously await the verdict. The saints are focused on the person of Jesus in the top half of the painting. The 'damned' are looking away from Jesus at the chaos all around them: in the words of Simon and Garfunkel "Hello darkness my old friend." Sin brings chaos into the sinner's life. Some of the saints can be easily recognized: St Peter with the two keys, St Laurence with the gridiron, St Bartholomew holding his own skin – he was skinned alive as a martyr - which is usually recognized as being a self-portrait of Michelangelo, St Catherine of Alexandria with the cogwheel and St Sebastian kneeling holding the arrows.

In the center of the lower section are the angels of the Apocalypse who are wakening the dead to the sound of long trumpets. On the left the risen souls recover their bodies as they ascend towards heaven (after the Resurrection, the body is reunited with the soul); on the right angels and devils fight over making the damned fall down to hell.

Finally, at the bottom Charon with his oars, together with his devils, makes the damned get out of his boat to lead them before the infernal judge Minos, whose body is wrapped in the coils of the serpent. The reference in this part to the ***Inferno*** of Dante's ***Divine Comedy*** is clear. As well as praise, the ***Last Judgment*** also caused violent reactions among the contemporaries. For example the Master of Ceremonies in the Vatican, Biagio da Cesena, said that "it was most dishonest in such an honored place to have painted so many nude figures who so dishonestly show their shame and that it was not a work for a Chapel of the Pope but for stoves and taverns" (G. Vasari, Le Vite). In 1564, the Congregation of the Council of Trent ordered that some of the figures which were considered "obscene" be covered. The task of painting the so-called "braghe" (pants) was given to Daniele da Volterra, since then known as the "braghettone."



The cameo image on the right by Michelangelo is one of the most powerful images ever produced. **This man has just realized his fate**. Could it be that he had fooled himself for years about how he was living? Notice the dread and despair. He is looking away from Jesus and appears to be looking into absolute chaos – a consequence of sin. He failed to see Jesus in the "hungry…the thirsty…the stranger…the sick…the prisoner…the naked." He is pulled down by the demon.

Living as God wants us can be costly is clear from the cameo on the left – the cost of discipleship. Look at the **detail of St. Bartholomew and his flayed skin**. St. Bartholomew – also known as Thaddeus – was skinned alive as a martyr. What cost are we willing to endure to be faithful and loving Christians? The face on the "skin" of the saint is reported to be that of Michelangelo - a self-portrait. Why? What might he be saying about himself? Maybe he is saying that he has undergone some sort of transformation, as did the saint? St. Bartholomew – unlike the image of the person who looks out into sheer chaos as a consequence of sin – focuses his attention on Jesus – in the "hungry…thirsty…stranger…" like the rest of the saints.

from our Pastor's desk

The story of the Stone Soup

Dear parishioners: you may have heard The Story of the Stone Soup. In the story of the stone soup, somewhere in post-war Eastern Europe there was a great famine in which people jealously hoarded whatever food they could find, hiding it even from their friends and neighbors. One day a wandering soldier came into the village. He was told to move on, that there was no food to be found in the village. "Oh, I have everything I need," he said. "In fact, I was thinking of making some stone soup to share with all of you." He pulled a big iron pot from his wagon, filled it with water, and built a fire under it. Then, with great ceremony, he drew an ordinary-looking stone from a velvet bag and dropped it into the water.

"Ahh," the soldier said to himself rather loudly, "I do like a tasty stone soup. Of course, stone soup with cabbage -- that's hard to beat." Soon a villager approached hesitantly, holding a cabbage he'd retrieved from its hiding place, and added it to the pot. "You know," the soldier remarked, "I once had stone soup with cabbage and a bit of salt beef as well …" The village butcher managed to find some salt beef. In time, other villagers brought potatoes, onions, carrots, mushrooms, and so on, until there was indeed a delicious meal for all. The villagers offered the soldier a great deal of money for the magic stone, but he refused to sell and traveled on the next day.

Isn't this what Jesus expects us to do – to help one another. Listen to him as he speaks to us in today's account from Matthew's Gospel: "I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you befriended me…" We may ask: "But when Lord?" To which he responds "as long as you did it for one of the least of my brothers, you did it for me."

The children from the school of religion are collecting food for "strangers" – people they don't even know - in Avon Park. They are aware that because of the downturn in the economy there are many more people who need food for Thanksgiving. So, they are collecting food to try to make Thanksgiving special for them. In doing so, what they learn about Jesus in the classroom becomes 'real' for them. Jesus tells us that we meet him in the 'stranger' in our midst; especially the stranger who is 'hungry' and 'thirsty.' What we do for them, we do for him.

Father Nick

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.

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.
Life Teen Mass returns in Sep.

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.

Readings for the Week of November 23, 2008

Sunday
Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Matthew 25:31-46

Monday
Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5
Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday
Revelation 14:14-19
Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday
Revelation 15:1-4
Luke 21:12-19

Thursday
Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a
Luke 21:20-28

Friday
Revelation 20:1-4, 11–21:2
Luke 21:29-33

Saturday
Revelation 22:1-7
Luke 21:34-36

Next Sunday
Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

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, Nov. 22
4 PM..... † Arlene Naida by Charles Naida
† Alex Holtzman by Gene & Evodine South
† Joffre Nassour by Helene Nassour
7 PM.....Spanish Mass

Sunday, Nov. 23
8 AM..... † Marie Ann Carducci by Rocky Carducci
† Paul & Theresa Mulman by Henry & Pauline Cooper
10:30 AM..... † Joseph Accardi by Ellie Accardi
† Marie Brummel by Jerry & Carol Brummel
† Pat Holloway by Mary Lou Holloway
6 PM.....Life Teen Mass

Monday, Nov. 24
8 AM..... † Sydney B. Smith by Peg Shaw

Tuesday, Nov. 25
8 AM.....For our parish family

Wednesday, Nov. 26
8 AM..... † Ray Whitlatch by Agnes Belfield

Thursday, Nov. 27
9 AM.....Special intention for Robert & Mary Chudzinski on their 61st wedding anniversary

Friday, Nov. 28
8 AM..... † Mary Budusky by Helene Nassour

Saturday, Nov. 29
4 PM..... † Anna Gildea by Bill & Marie Crennan
† Nikki Onstott by Audrey Bruce
† Donna Loomis by Al & Patty Klinger

Sunday, Nov. 30
8 AM..... † Patrick Sedlock by Helen Viviano
† Edward Buzzell by Mary Buzzell
† Ray Deininger by his wife
10:30 AM..... † Charles O'Reilly by Betty Wiskes
† Marie Brummel by Jerry & Carol Brummel

Please pray for the sick...

Fred Migliore
Sheri Viera
Joan Southworth
Kathleen Meusel
Joan D'Amanda
Ruth Landenberger
Jane Papale
The Mariano Family
Mary Trypuc
Louise MacDougall
Ron Kowalski

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,
and our loved ones.

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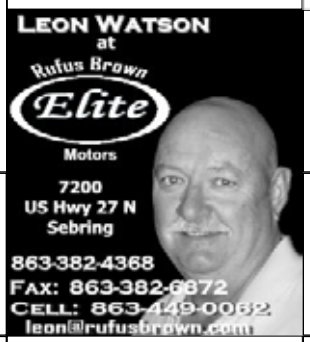
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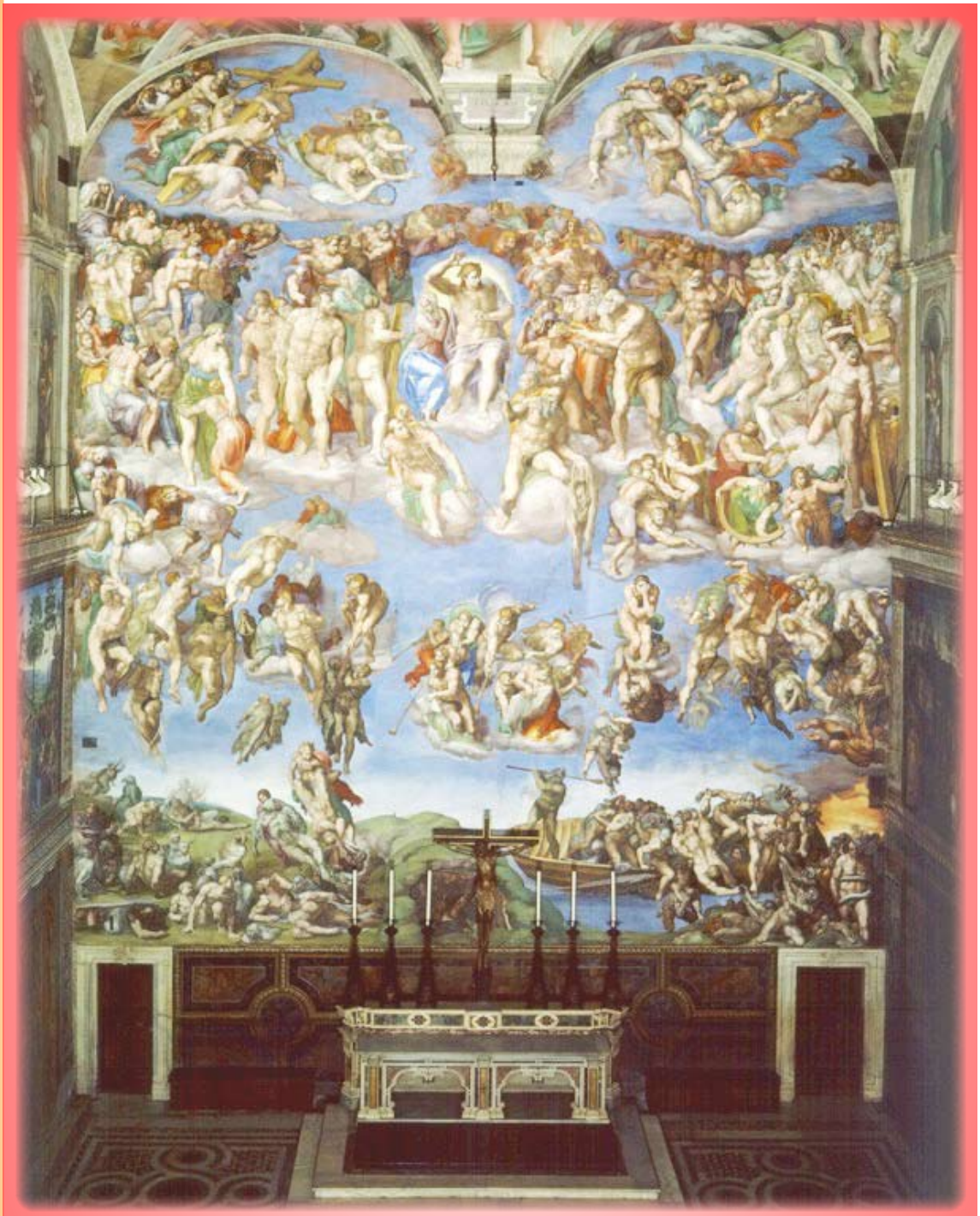

Michelangelo's THE LAST JUDGEMENT

At the center of Michelangelo's Last Judgment Jesus is about to give the verdict. Mary is beside him in a posture of resignation. The saints, in the top half of the painting, surround and are focused on Jesus "... in the hungry... the stranger..." The damned look away from Jesus... into sheer chaos caused by sin - "Hello darkness my old friend" in the words of Simon & Garfunkel.