



Our Lady of Grace Parish

"Gathering in Faith ~ Striving in Hope ~ Serving in Love"

6 Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills, Florida 34465
Telephone (352) 746-2144 - FAX (352) 746-6892

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Friday
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

PASTOR

Rev. Erwin Belgica

STAFF

Mary Arnold
*Director of Faith
Formation*

Vinny DeMaio
Sacristan

Ed Putnam
Director of Music

Michele Vermilyea
*Financial Secretary/
Office Manager*

Victoria Perrin
*Bulletin Editor/
Secretary*

Moses Nunez
Facility Manager



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil
4:00 PM

Sunday Masses
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
12:30 PM Spanish Mass

Weekday Masses
9:00 AM Monday to Friday

Eucharistic Adoration

First Fridays
9:30 AM-12:00 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays
2:30 to 3:15 PM

ONE MIGHTIER THAN I is coming after me

Mark 1:7

December 10, 2023



Website: <https://ourladyofgracefl.org>

Office email: parishoffice@ourladyofgracefl.org

Faith Formation: faithformation@ourladyofgracefl.org

Music Director: musicdirector@ourladyofgracefl.org



ourladyofgracefl.flocknote.com



PRAYER

"God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom when he comes in glory." Amen.

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Saint Peter shows us a characteristic of God that we normally do not think about. He tells us that for God, "a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day" (2 Peter 3:8). Because early Christians sometimes complained that Jesus' second coming had been delayed, Peter is trying to tell us that what seems like a long time to us is nothing to God.

Like the early Christians, we may wonder how long it will take for God to answer our prayers. We may be praying for someone who is looking for a job, a sick relative, an end to abortion, or world peace. Some prayers require us to change, and we may not be ready.

What Peter means is that a thousand years is not too long for God if someone needs that long to repent. God is far more patient than we are. God has been "waiting" over two thousand years for us to preach the gospel to all nations. God has been waiting for millennia for people to give up war as a means for solving our problems. God has been waiting since the beginning of the human race for us to learn how to love our neighbor.

We might not be as patient as God, but we can help. Saint Peter says that we are not just waiting for the Lord's return, we are hastening it. When we make a choice that is based on faith rather than selfishness, we make it a little easier for people to believe in God. Jesus is the light of the world; he asks us to let our light shine, so that people can see Jesus in us. May our light "prepare the way of the Lord" (Mark 1:3).

Tom Schmidt

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 10, 2023

Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
Monday	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday	Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**



This is Revival

"The coming of Jesus at Bethlehem brought joy to the world and to every human heart. The same Jesus comes again and again in our hearts during Holy Communion. He wants to give the same joy and peace...Let us pray much for this grace of peace and joy in our own heart, in our communities, in our society and in the Church" (St. Teresa of Calcutta).



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Sunday, Dec. 24

4:00 PM (music begins 3:15pm)

10:00 PM (music begins at 9:15pm)

Christmas Day

Monday, Dec. 25 - 10:30 AM

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, December 11**

9:00 AM ✚ JOAN BREWIS
By Men's Study Group

TUESDAY, December 12

9:00 AM ✚ LEO BOUTIETTE
By wife, Nancy

WEDNESDAY, December 13

9:00 AM ♥ THANKSGIVING
By Violy & Tany

THURSDAY, December 14

9:00 AM ✚ GRACE STIER
By Barbara & Steve Stier

FRIDAY, December 15

9:00 AM ✚ ROBERT WILLIAM RUSSELL
By family

SATURDAY, December 16

4:00 PM ✚ ROY C. BROWN
By wife, Anne Darnall

SUNDAY, December 17

8:00 AM ✚ AURELIA RUBERIANO
By daughter, Myrna
10:30 AM ♥ THANKSGIVING-CASTELAR FAMILIES
By Nonie & Nilo
12:30 PM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Pray for our sick...

Vince Wojteczko, Mary Gruss, Alma Eberle, Sasha Orbino, Bill Ward, Joanie Hayward, Alberto Sitchon, James Smith, Ileen Jervis, Anna Palmer, John Rodgers, Diego Bertagna, Gene Brizuela, Mary Iosso, Michael Alberts, Bonnie Johnson, Angelita Uy, Aline Castonguay, Enoc Moreno, Jr., Ed Matos, Remy Natividad, Mary Petersen, Johnny Rodriguez, Patricia Wescott, Odie Malave, Jaimie Farmer, Diane Citron, Richard Cangelosi, Robert Bland, Al LeBlanc, George Yantis, Tony Zarra, Liz Riordan, Nick Maselli, LeAnne Milian, Kathy Rush, Michelle Rivera, Vic Stabile, Judy Britain.

**DECEMBER 2023****SANCTUARY LAMP**

In Memory of
ARTHUR RUSSELL

By family

ALTAR CANDLES

In Memory of
ROY C. BROWN

By wife, Anne Darnall

BREAD & WINE

In Memory of
PETER KLITZSCH

By wife



**Discipleship through Stewardship
and
Sacrificial Giving**

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3

We are called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy too.

December 3, 2023	
Offertory	\$8,598.00
Online Giving	\$ 905.00
Catholic School Support	\$1,043.00

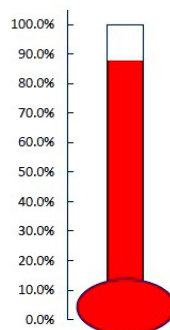


DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

**CATHOLIC
MINISTRY**

Appeal

Next week's second collection is for Catholic Ministry Appeal.



DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG
**CATHOLIC
MINISTRY**

Appeal

As of 12/04/2023
Goal: \$70,914
Pledged Amt: \$62,070
Pct. Achieved: 87.5%
No. of Families: 834
No. of Pledges: 274



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

**Retirement Fund
for Religious**

retiredreligious.org

Support a lifetime of service.

Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please

support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

**Please remember...**

Our Lady of Grace in your Will
Will terminology for leaving gifts to the Church:

Gregory L Parkes, as Bishop of the Diocese of St. Peterburg, a corporate sole, for the benefit of Our Lady of Grace Church, Beverly Hills, FL."



We are open before and after each weekend Mass.
Religious items for holiday season are available.
Please come in and check it out!



WELCOME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

MyCatholicMass.org



Our Lady of Grace Parish K of C Council 6168

Blood Drive Notice

December 16, -Sat., 8AM-1PM

KofC Hall, cor. 2389 W Norvell Bryant Highway,
& W Pinecone Ave. route 486 in Lecanto



Please plan on joining us for this important life saving Christmas drive. There is no greater gift than the gift of life for our family, friends and neighbors.

There will be Egift cards, themed T-shirts, and a complimentary continental breakfast for all participants.

For any questions call LifeSouth at 352-527-3061. Thanks again for all your efforts of support.

The **10/21/23** blood drive collected 24 units from 26 donors at the council hall, and 2 units from 2 donors at a LifeSouth Facility, for a total of 26 units of precious blood from 28 donors. This drive was the most productive drive in the last two years, and the donors enjoyed the excellent deluxe hot breakfast graciously provided by Les and Joan Magyar and Tropic Shores Realty, the \$20 Egift, and Halloween themed shirts. A big thanks to all participants.



Spaghetti Sauce, Cereal
Canned Fruit

DROP OFF DAYS
December 12th & 19th A.M. ONLY



It's Poinsettia Time!

28 Poinsettias (14 red, & 14 white @12.00 each) will be available for you in Memory of a loved one or in Thanksgiving.

Please call the office (746-2144) or stop in the office to place an order.



Simbang Gabi

December 22 5:30pm
@ St. Thomas
7040 S Suncoast Blvd
Homosassa
RSVP 352-382-4721

National Eucharistic Congress

Your Invited July 17-21 of 2024 to Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana

Join your Catholic brothers and sisters at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. For the first time in a generation, the Church will gather to ask Jesus to breathe his life into our dry bones and then send us back to our community to share his love.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Congress**

This historic 5-day gathering of missionary disciples will be a new Pentecost, a powerful anointing and personal commission to invite others to know Christ. Your life—and our Church—will never be the same.

To learn more or register to attend visit the National Eucharistic Congress website at <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org>



The Our Lady of Grace Parish Christmas Celebration held last Sunday, Dec. 3 at 3:00PM was well attended inspite of the bad weather. We are so grateful for those who came and especially thank you to the volunteers who braved the rain who made the event a success.



As Catholics, we are called to respect life from conception until natural death. We are also called to put our faith into action.

Abortion is one of the most pernicious practices in our nation today. But why...why is it so harmful and destructive? The secular or worldly answer is abortion ends a life. Every one of us is living proof that abortion kills. For, if we were aborted in the womb, we would not be here. Few things in this world are more self-evident than that. Yet, the problem with abortion runs deeper for Catholics and our Catholic faith. Abortion strikes at the very foundation of our faith and the bedrock of our church – what we believe. We profess what we believe in every mass when we say the Nicene Creed. Among the beliefs, we profess, “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son....” It is the Holy Spirit that gives life. Abortion ends it. Abortion reverses the act of the Holy Spirit and overrules the will of God...willfully and deliberately. It ends a life and is destructive to the soul.

As Catholics, we are called to protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence – from conception to natural death. Each of us is also called to put our faith into action. So, what can you do to help end abortion?

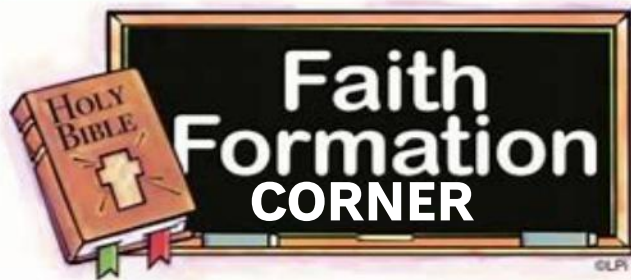
Pray. You can pray for the end of abortion – the rosary, the Prayer for Life, or a prayer from your heart.

Sign the Signature Ad. You can be a signatory on the upcoming Pro-Life advertisement in the Citrus County Chronicle that opposes abortion and remembers the 65,259,665 unborn babies lost to abortion in the US.

Decline to Sign. You can help spread the word to Decline to Sign the petition that would put a dangerous pro-abortion amendment on the Florida ballot in the November election. The call from the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops is shown below.

Support Pro-Life Organizations. You can volunteer, donate money, or contribute necessities to pro-life organizations that help those facing unplanned pregnancies or those that have chosen life.

Those are only a few examples of what you can do. If you search your heart, you will likely find more. No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. Put your faith into action.



Week of December 10, 2023



Coffee & Conversation '23-'24

9:15-10:15 AM—Parish OFFICE Library



(during the Faith Formation Program season)
Adults spending time together in fellowship and conversation about topics important to our faith.

Dec. 17 - CHRISTMAS-Enjoying this Holy Season



We are looking for the generous spirits in the parish who would like to sponsor an angel for the Three Kings celebration. Angels are available from Mary Arnold or by contacting the parish office. Gifts can be brought to the parish office during the week or given to Mary Arnold on the weekends.



The Spirituality of Advent

Dr. Tim Gray discusses the spirituality of Advent and the joy of waiting for Christ.



Our Lady of Guadalupe | Littlest Saints

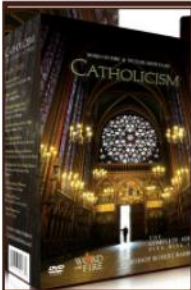
A boy, his sneakers, and a giant sombrero take up the story of St. Juan Diego's miraculous encounter with the Blessed Virgin Mary. How far will Our Lady ask him to reach out in faith, trust, and confidence?



Yakhal/Hope | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

In the Bible people who have hope are very different from optimists! In this video, we'll explore how biblical hope looks to God's character alone as a basis for trusting that the future will be better than the present.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.



Catholicism, Its Truth and Beauty

Come journey with us as we dive deeper into what Catholics believe and why with Bishop Robert Barron in his thematic presentation, *Catholicism*. This 10 week look at the Catholic faith will take us through the art, architecture, literature, music and all the treasures of the Catholic tradition to illuminate the timeless teachings of the Church. Join us **Thursday at 10:00am** in the Educational Wing of the Parish Life Center for about 90 minutes. Bring a friend to share the experience with!

Baptisms: Registered parishioners should contact the office to make arrangements. If possible, this should be done at least three months before the birth of your baby. Baptisms will be celebrated three times a year.

Marriages: Registered parishioners should contact the office at least one year in advance of making marriage arrangements.

OCIA: This process is open to anyone interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Faith. Please contact the office.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please contact the office if you need a priest to come to your home to anoint you, or to be anointed at a weekday Mass.

St. John Paul II Catholic School: 4341 W. Homosassa Trail, Lecanto, FL 34461
Phone (352) 746-2020 Web site: www.sjp2.us





Lecturas de las Escrituras Para la Semana del 10 de Diciembre de 2023

Domingo	Segundo Domingo de Adviento Is 40, 1-5. 9-11; Sal 84, 9ab-10. 11-12. 13-14; 2 Pd 3, 8-14; Mc 1, 1-8
Lunes	Is 35, 1-10; Sal 84, 9ab-10. 11-12. 13-14; Lc 5, 17-26
Martes	Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Za 2, 14-17; Jdt 13, 18bcde. 19; Lc 1, 26-38 o Lc 1, 39-48
Miércoles	Memoria de Santa Lucia, Virgen y Mártir Is 40, 25-31; Sal 102, 1-2. 3-4. 8 y 10; Mt 11, 28-30
Jueves	Memoria de San Juan de la Cruz, Presbítero y Doctor de la Iglesia Is 41, 13-20; Sal 144, 1 y 9. 10-11. 12-13ab; Mt 11, 11-15
Viernes	Is 48, 17-19; Sal 1, 1-2. 3. 4 y 6; Mt 11, 16-19
Sábado	Ec 48, 1-4. 9-11; Sal 79, 2ac. 3b. 15-16. 18-19; Mt 17, 10-13
Domingo	Tercer Domingo de Adviento Is 61, 1-2. 10-11; Lc 1, 46-48. 49-50. 53-54; 1 Ts 5, 16-24; Jn 1, 6-8. 19-28



ORACIÓN

“Dios de poder y misericordia, abre nuestros corazones en acogida. Quitad las cosas que nos impiden recibir a Cristo con gozo, para que podamos compartir su sabiduría cuando venga en gloria”. Amén.

Preparar el camino del Señor

San Pedro nos demuestra una característica de Dios que normalmente no consideramos. Nos dice que para Dios “un día es como mil años y mil años, como un día” (2 Pedro 3,8). Debido a que los primeros cristianos a veces se quejaban de que la segunda venida de Jesús se estaba demorando, Pedro está intentando decirnos que lo que a nosotros nos parece mucho tiempo no es nada para Dios.

Al igual que los primeros cristianos, podemos preguntarnos cuánto tiempo Dios va a demorar en responder a nuestras oraciones. Quizás estemos rezando por alguien que está buscando trabajo, un familiar enfermo, el fin del aborto o la paz mundial. Algunas oraciones requieren que nosotros cambiemos y puede ser que todavía no estemos dispuestos a hacerlo.

Lo que Pedro quiere decir es que mil años no es demasiado para Dios si alguien necesita ese tiempo para arrepentirse. Dios es mucho más paciente que nosotros. Dios ha estado “esperando” más de dos mil años para que prediquemos el evangelio a todas las naciones. Dios ha estado esperando durante milenios a que la gente abandone la guerra como un remedio para resolver los problemas. Dios ha estado esperando desde el comienzo de la humanidad que aprendamos a amar al prójimo.

Puede ser que no seamos tan pacientes como Dios, pero podemos ayudar. San Pedro dice que no sólo estamos esperando que vuelva el Señor, sino que estamos acelerando su venida. Cuando tomamos una decisión basada en la fe en lugar del egoísmo, ayudamos a que sea un poco más fácil que las personas creen en Dios. Jesús es la luz del mundo y nos pide que dejemos brillar nuestra luz para que la gente pueda ver a Jesús en nosotros. Que nuestra luz “prepare[] el camino del Señor” (Marcos 1,3).

Tom Schmidt





Diocesan is proud to now be printing *Our Lady of Grace's Sunday Bulletin*



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