

OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921
(941) 964 - 2254

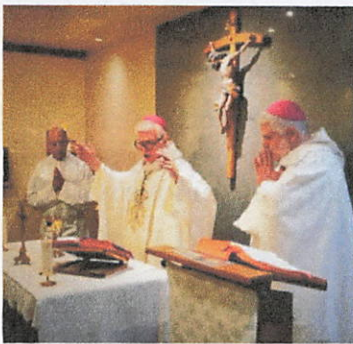
Mass Schedule:

Saturday:	5:00 pm
Sunday:	9:00 & 10:30 am
Mon-Friday:	8:00 am
First Saturday Anointing:	After 5:00 pm vigil
Sacrament of Penance:	By appointment
Parish website address:	ourladyofmercy.church
Online Giving:	ourladyofmercy.church
Father Anthony email:	anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org
Office Hours, Monday – Friday:	8:00am-4:00 pm
Business Manager Erin Sifrit:	erin.sifrit@olomcc.org

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JUNE 21, 2026

Saturday Vigil Mass Time Change

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,



On Saturday July 11, 2026, our Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 pm due to the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Elect Emilio Biosca Aguero, OFM Cap. The ordination will take place at 2:00 pm that day at St. John XXIII Parish in Fort Myers. This is an extraordinary event in the life of our diocese and a true blessing for us all. By moving the Saturday Vigil Mass from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm this allows me to attend the ordination to concelebrate with my brother priests in giving thanks to God for the gift of the Eucharist. Thank you for understanding and please continue to pray for good and holy men to

say yes to the sacred priesthood of Jesus Christ. God bless. Photo: <https://dioceseofvenice.org/bishop-elect/>

Father Anthony

Gospel of Matthew Reflection

“What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.” Matthew 10:27–28

When we pray, does God “whisper” to us? Do we sense His presence? Has He convicted our heart about Himself and all that He has revealed? Most likely He has, in His own silent way.

God rarely speaks to us in visions or by audibly hearing His voice. Though He has done so, as has been recorded in the lives of some saints, even if He did appear to us in that mystical way, this is not necessarily any better for our salvation and holiness than the ordinary way He usually speaks.

For most people, God comes in silent prayer, interior intuitions, and spiritual consolations. For example, one might be listening to a sermon, and something jumps out, convicting one’s heart or inspiring with a supernatural insight or hope. God’s ordinary consoling activity in our lives must be “listened” to and responded to.

Listening to the Voice of God means we discern the eternal Truth He communicates to us, such as do this or avoid that, and we respond to Him. This is our conscience at work: “Conscience is the most

secret core and sanctuary of a man. There he is alone with God, Whose voice echoes in his depths” (*Gaudium et Spes* #16).

In today’s Gospel, when Jesus says, “What I say to you in the darkness...” and “what you hear whispered...” refers to God’s communication with us in that secret sanctuary of our conscience. Jesus says that His communication is not given only to us but must be spoken “in the light” and proclaimed, “on the housetops.” While our faith is personal and intimate, it must also become communal by sharing it with others through our words and actions.

Sharing our faith can be difficult. We might fear offending another who is not living the Gospel. In addressing this fear, Jesus says, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.” Fear should never deter us from sharing our faith.

When we live our faith openly and share it charitably and unhindered, others will react. Some will joyfully receive our shared faith, but others will not. Among good-hearted Catholics, when the faith we share with others is not received well, we often second-guess ourselves. We become sensitive to the negative reaction, which easily leads to worry and fear. Such fear must be overcome with love and holy sorrow if we are to fulfill Jesus’ loving command.

One way to do so is to regularly align ourselves with God’s command rather than the fear inflicted upon us by the evil one. The one who can “destroy both soul and body in Gehenna” ultimately refers to God’s just judgment, which we must ponder with the spiritual gift of Fear of the Lord.

This holy fear is not a fear of punishment alone but a deep belief in and reverence for God’s justice and truth. It is the kind of fear that compels us to remain faithful, seeking to serve God above all else, and courageously and confidently sharing our personal faith with others as the greatest act of love we can offer.

A well-formed conscience, guided by the truth of the Gospel, gives us the confidence to speak with clarity and charity. It allows us to discern when and how to proclaim God’s truth in a way that draws souls to Him. If we remain open to His voice and are willing to proclaim what He whispers in our hearts, we will become true witnesses to Christ, bringing His light into a world in desperate need of Him. Amen.

**Happy and Blessed Father’s Day
to all father’s in our lives.**

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Faith Appeal 2026

Parish assessment this year is \$144,000 (\$90,200.00 collected as of June 8) Envelopes are available at the front of the church. Please make checks payable to the *Catholic Faith Appeal* and *in the memo write Our Lady of Mercy Parish* so that we receive proper credit for your donation. Every dollar given to the CFA helps us reach our goal. May God continue to bless our generous parish. We are hopeful that 100% of our Parish community will respond to the 2026 Catholic Faith Appeal to successfully meet and perhaps exceed our goal. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Annual Catholic Faith Appeal 2026, with a pledge or one-time gift.



Safe Environment Training (SET) - As part of the Safe Environment Program, the Diocese of Venice Requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and complete online training in SET prior to beginning employment or volunteering. Please visit the Diocese of Venice website. To report any abuse against minors to the Florida Department of Children and Families please call 800-962-2873. Further, if Diocesan personnel or volunteers are involved, notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Senton, at 941-416-6114. [Thank you all for your time, talent, and treasure.](#)