



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

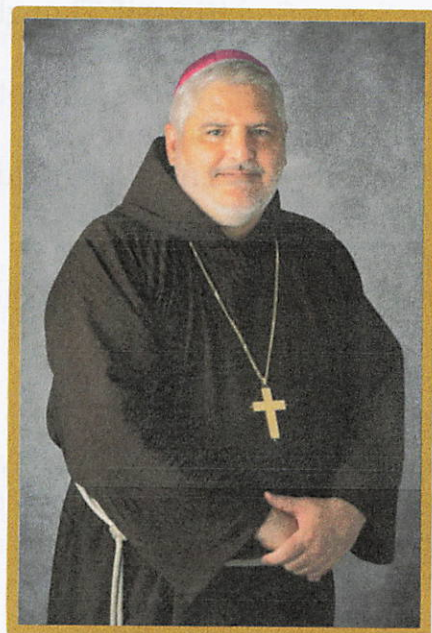
Office Hours, Monday – Friday:

8:00am-4:00 pm

Business Manager Erin Sifrit:

erin.sifrit@olomcc.org

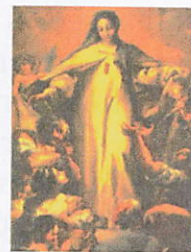
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 16, 2026



Thursday, August 27, 2026

Emilio E. Biosca, O.F.M. Cap.

Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida
will celebrate the 10 am Mass.



August 27, 2026, there will be no 8:00 am Mass.

Following the celebration of the Holy Mass we will have a
reception in the Parish Life Center.

All are invited to attend and to meet and greet our new
bishop.

There is a book at the entrance of the church where you are
invited to write a welcome message to our new bishop. This
book will be presented to him at the end of the reception.

Please let us know if you will be attending.

Gospel of Matthew Reflection

"It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Matthew 15:26-28

When Jesus first encountered the woman, He saw into her soul and perceived the depth of her faith. As God, He knew everything about her—her suffering, her love for her daughter, her perseverance. He also knew He would heal the girl, yet He did not do so immediately. Instead, He engaged in what theology refers to as divine pedagogy—a method of instruction by which God teaches slowly, carefully, and with purpose. In this case, Jesus used the moment to teach His disciples—and us—a profound lesson about humility and unwavering faith. He tested her, and she passed the test marvelously.

The location of this encounter is also significant. It took place in the region of Tyre and Sidon, in modern-day Lebanon—a Gentile territory known for its Greek-speaking population and pagan customs. The woman is specifically identified as a Canaanite, evoking the memory of Israel's ancient enemies. And yet, it is precisely this outsider—this woman of seemingly little spiritual privilege—who becomes a model of the faith the chosen people were meant to embody.

She first approaches Jesus, crying out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." By calling Him, "Son of David," she reveals her belief in His messianic identity. But what does Jesus do? Nothing. He appears to ignore her—not because He is displeased or uncaring, but because He is testing her faith, knowing full well she will persevere and shine. God often allows similar experiences in the lives of the faithful. It's easy to assume that if we follow Christ, we will be shielded from difficulty. On the contrary, one of the most powerful ways God forms His saints is by allowing them to undergo trials. These trials, far from being signs of abandonment, are invitations to heroic virtue. They are divine tests. And God never permits more than we can endure by His grace.

If that seems confusing or difficult to accept, we need only look to the Son of God Himself. Though Jesus was perfect, it was the Father's will that He endure the deepest depths of humiliation: rejection, persecution, suffering, and death. Through this ultimate "divine pedagogy," the Son not only conquered sin and death but also taught us how to follow Him—by transforming our humiliation into humility, our weakness into strength, and our suffering into sanctification. In this way, God's power is made perfect in our weakness (cf. [2 Corinthians 12:9](#)).

As the conversation with the woman unfolds, Jesus continues to appear distant, yet He knows she will not give up. Her faith and her love for her daughter drive her to persevere. She humbly persists through every trial, and in doing so, she wins grace—not only for herself and her daughter, but also for the disciples who witnessed the exchange and for all who read her story today. Reflect today on the ways God may be inviting you to a deeper faith through silence, delay, or trial. Could He be calling you, like this woman, to heroic humility and steadfast trust? Embrace those moments of divine testing, for they are often the very means by which His greatest works of grace are accomplished—in you and through you. Amen.

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Faith Appeal 2026



Parish assessment this year is \$144,000 (\$118,650.00 collected as of August 10) 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.